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THE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF THE —

ASSOCIATION

— OF —

Directors of the Poor
And Charities

— OF THE —

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

— HELD AT —

HARRISBURG, PA.

OCTOBER 25TH AND 26TH, 1898.

IRA E. BRIGGS, STENOGRAPHER.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

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1898.

INDEX.

ADDRESSES:—	PAGE.
Address of Welcome—Hon. John D. Patterson	10
Response to Address of Welcome—Mr. Fred Fleitz	12
President's Address—Mr. John F. Scragg	13
Program	16
Enrollment of Delegates	17
Committees Appointed	20, 21
Various Resolutions	22, 48

PAPERS:—

"Our Duties to Families of Soldiers who are serving in the American Spanish War"—Mr. H. W. Graybill, Lancaster	23
"The Abolition of Public Out-Door Relief in Cities and Rural Districts"—Mr. Wm. M. Brown, Erie	29
"Report of Industrial School"—Mrs. Sue Willard, Indiana	36
"Benefits of Associated Charities to the Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of Almshouses"—Mr. J. W. Peck, Somerset	38
"Care of Crippled and Deformed Children"—Mrs. Elizabeth P. Neill, Titusville	40
"Care and Treatment of the Insane"—Col. E. P. Gould, Erie	46
"County Care of the Indigent Insane as Provided for in the Act of May 25th, 1897."—Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, Philadelphia	53
"Report from the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania, Polk, Pa."—Dr. J. Moorhead Murdoch, Polk	70
"The General Outlook of the Charities of the State, and the Ultimate Results of our System of Work, and how it may be Improved"—Cadwalader Biddle, Philadelphia	74
"Work of Children's Aid Society"—Mrs. F. B. Reed, Clearfield	78
"Distribution of State Appropriation"—Dr. J. W. Walk	83
"The Rights of Dependent Children"—Mr. Ed. E. Long, Montgomery	85

REPORTS:—

Committee on Resolutions	22
Committee on Legislation	45
Industrial School for Girls, Indiana	36
State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania	70
Committee on next meeting	77
Committee on Officers	80
Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania	119

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES:—

Allegheny County	95
Beaver County	96
Cambria County	97
Chester County	97
Carbon County—Middle Coal Field District	98
Crawford County	105
Delaware County	105
Erie County	106

—CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.—

INDEX.—CONTINUED.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES—Continued.

Fayette County.....	108
Franklin County.....	109
Laekawanna County.....	110
Lancaster County.....	111
Lebanon County.....	111
Luzerne County.....	112
Mercer County.....	113
Montgomery County.....	113
Northumberland County—Coal Township Almshouse.....	114
Somerset County.....	115
Susquehanna County—Auburn and Rush Poor Asylum.....	116
Washington County—Children's Home.....	117

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES:—

Chester County.....	118
Fayette County.....	118
State Society.....	119

ORGANIZATION FOR 1898-1899.

JOHN M. GROFF, Lancaster	President.
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M. SHUMAKER, Somerset	"
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J. W. PECK.	Somerset
MRS. ELIZABETH P. NEILL.	Crawford
DR. WELCH.	Luzerne

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FREDERICK FULLER	Lackawanna
JAMES MOORE.	Cambria

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JOHN H. OSBORNE	Erie
JOHN C. LYNE.	Dauphin
WILLIAM H. EVANS.	Westmoreland
H. H. BRIDENBAUGH.	Blair

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DR. J. W. WALK.	Philadelphia
JAMES MILLER	Mercer
THOMAS TRAIL.	Bedford
M. H. KUDER.	Montgomery
MRS. H. L. RANKIN	Fayette

LEGISLATION.

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R. D. Mc GONNIGLE. Allegheny
Hon. J. HOWARD MORRISON Philadelphia

PROGRAM.

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JAMES MOORE Cambria
W. H. GUY Allegheny
W. FORCE Erie
N. P. WEST Delaware
Mrs. J. G. BENTON Crawford

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

JNO. M. GROFF Lancaster
R. D. McGONNIGLE Allegheny
W. P. GOULD Erie

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES
OF THE
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
HELD IN
CHESTNUT STREET HALL,
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA,

October 25, 26 and 27, 1898.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania convened in Chestnut Street Hall, Harrisburg, Pa., at 10 o'clock A. M. on October 25th, 1898, and was called to order by President Scragg, who said :

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania. This being the time and hour fixed for the opening of our Convention we will call the Convention to order for the twenty-fourth annual meeting, and the proceedings will be opened by prayer by Rev. W. J. Grissinger.

“O Thou great Creator of heaven and earth ! we would come before Thee at this time endeavoring to recognize Thee as our maker and the sovereign Ruler of all things :

“ We would not begin this session without acknowledging Thee as the giver of every good and every perfect gift. We thank Thee for the blessings we have received at Thy hands, we thank Thee for the Christian religion, we thank Thee for the Bible and for all the revelations Thou hast given to the children of men, and we thank Thee that it is through the light of the gospel we are brought into this enlightened state by which we are made to comprehend the fact that we are created social beings and that we have those principles stamped into our natures by and through the gospel, of humanity.

“ We pray Thee to bless those assembled here as Thy servants, who have been chosen from this great Commonwealth, who are representatives of the charitable institutions through the State. We thank Thee that we are here for the purpose of deliberating and arranging and planning for the better care of the infirm and diseased and the poor and distressed. O do Thou give wisdom and understanding from on high, that they may do something for the bettering of humanity !

“ We thank Thee for the various homes that have been prepared for this suffering humanity and for the great provisions Thou hast made for mankind. Bless this Association assembled here in the capital of the Commonwealth : bless the President of the Association and all its officers. Be with us all in this world, bless us in our goings forth : and do Thou grant, O Lord, to bless the Governor of this State. Bless all who are in authority, and help us to so act and so live that when done with our work we may lay down the cross and take up the crown of eternal glory, and be with Thee forever throughout eternity. We ask these blessings for Jesus' sake. Amen.”

Hon. John D. Patterson, Mayor of the City of Harrisburg, was here introduced to the Convention by President Scragg and responded with the following address of welcome :

Mr. President and Members of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania: It is very gratifying to see such a large attendance of the better half of mankind present to advise with and give encouragement to your work: The poor ye always have with you, but on this occasion we are favored with the presence of those entrusted with the grave responsibility of caring for the unfortunate of their respective districts. Your office imposes and involves many matters of serious import to the director as to how best he may aid the deserving poor and to what extent he is justified in giving aid out of the county funds, as every dollar so distributed represents an equitable percentage of the annual taxes paid by the more fortunate portion of the community including the merchant, the professional man, the mechanic and the humblest independent wage earner who, by economy, thrift, frugal and temperate habits, may have acquired a home, however humble, and in order that the deserving may not suffer or that the unworthy may not profit at the expense of the people requires great care and caution on the part of the conscientious director. From an official experience I can speak advisedly of the many appeals made for help and how prone our sympathies are to be aroused by suffering humanity from whatever causes the same may arise, and from this sympathy how slow we are to realize the fact that a director has assumed a sacred obligation to perform his duties impartially, intelligently and with a due regard to the poor as well as to those who bear the burden in maintaining the county institutions by taxation. The County of Dauphin has been fortunate in the selection of its directors who acquit themselves with credit, notwithstanding the fact that our county embraces, within its limits, a number of large manufacturing towns, and also the City of Harrisburg, the Capital of this great State and a great railroad centre where the distressed and needy of all kinds and from all sections naturally gather, thus placing upon the directors of this county, in addition to our unfortunates, hundreds of urgent and pressing calls for relief from transients. However, our Board of Directors are always ready to investigate the individual cases that may come to their knowledge and if found worthy are furnished proper help. You will find our county home located in a most desirable spot and surrounded by a large and productive farm, the buildings good and substantial with modern improvements for the care and comfort of the aged and unfortunates who, through necessity, make their home within its walls abundantly provided with good and wholesome food and proper clothing. This you will find well worth a visit of inspection during your sessions. You will also find many points of interest in and about our city to which no doubt your attention will be called by the gentlemen composing our most excellent Board of Directors, and their courteous Chief Clerk. May the result of your meetings be beneficial to your various constituencies through the State, and an aid to the most intelligent discharge of the trying duties attached to your honorable office. In behalf of the very worthy gentlemen composing our Board of Directors and the people of Dauphin County I have the honor of extending to you a most cordial and generous welcome to our hospitality.

Mr. Fred Fleitz, of Scranton, who responded to the address of welcome as follows:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and his Honor the Mayor of Harrisburg: In the name and on behalf of the Directors of Poor of Pennsylvania we desire to thank you most heartily for the kind and courteous welcome you have extended to us. The city over which you preside has a reputation as wide as the State—I was about to say as wide as the nation—as a great convention city. But I question very much, Mr. Mayor, whether among all the conventions that come here at various times this year and have come during the years gone by there have been held any that can compare in unselfishness, in devotion to the cause of humanity, to the convention that you have welcomed this morning.

The hospitality of your city, the generosity of its people, the courteousness and efficiency of its Mayor and other officials, make it a very convenient and acceptable place for the holding of conventions. The fact that the Legislature of Pennsylvania and the seat of government of this great State are here makes it particularly proper for the holding of a Convention like this, and I am only sorry—and in this I think I but echo the sentiment of nearly all of us—that the Legislature of Pennsylvania is not in session, in order that some of them might witness the intelligence and enthusiasm, and see the character of the state board of Directors of the Poor. This in order that the recommendations which are continually made by this Association to the Legislature, and the efforts of some of the members of the Legislature who are members of this Association, made on the floor of the House for the last three or four sessions, in an effort to obtain various important and much needed legislation on the question of poor-laws of Pennsylvania, might have its effect. I feel that this sentiment must go on until the various laws are consolidated, and until the wishes of this Association, composed of the most intelligent, conscientious and noble minded men and women in Pennsylvania, shall have weight with the politicians of the State.

On behalf of the Association I desire to say a few words when we stop to consider that in the stirring times of a great political campaign, and still more stirring times of a great Peace Jubilee, when our great metropolis is filled with the people of the whole State, when excitement patriotic and political is at its height, when the crops on the farm, and so many things combine to keep people at home, that so many of those upon whose shoulders rest the burden of taking care of and administering to the wants and comforts of those who have fallen in life's unequal warfare, should meet together here, undisturbed by the excitement of the times, to consider calmly and dispassionately the best way of taking care of and alleviating the miseries and sufferings of the poor unfortunates with whom we have to deal, it is a very striking commentary on the unselfishness and earnestness of the people engaged in this work.

It is now nearly a quarter of a century since this Association had its birth, and during those years these meetings have increased, the plan of unity, the strength of union, the wisdom of consultation has been demonstrated from year to year, and I am sure that this convention will prove a worthy successor to those that have gone before and that the work done here will have its weight.

Inasmuch as the time is short and we are all anxious to get to the more serious work of the Convention I will bring my remarks to a close.

Again, Mr. Mayor, I desire on the part of the Convention to extend to you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks, for your kindness and your hospitality. [Applause.]

President Scragg : Knowing that this Convention was called for the purpose of work, and that we have a great deal of important work to perform, I thought at first it would be the part of wisdom as the presiding officer to say little or nothing ; then again the thought occurred to me that possibly as the presiding officer, while I might have extreme views on some topics that might come before you, it would still be my duty to control any feeling I might have or interest I might take in the different topics, and hence the few remarks I will make I have reduced to writing, and they are as follows :

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA :

Ladies and Gentlemen: On this, our 24th Annual Convention, no more appropriate city could have been selected for our meeting than this, the Capital of our Commonwealth. It is additionally appropriate because our Convention is upon the eve of the coming session of our Legislature, which, no doubt, will be called to act on matters of more or less importance concerning which this Convention and the interest represented by it, will be interested in, and our meeting here at this time can and will add force to any suggestions, which, as an Association, we may make on the legislation of the incoming Legislature. To those of us who are at all familiar with the results of the work accomplished in the past by this organization, nothing need be further said. To others, we may say the improvements in the poor laws; the better protection of our insane; the prevention of extravagance in our charitable institutions, etc., stand out and speak in more eloquent and forcible language than mere words can express as to what this Association has accomplished. Great as has been the work in the past accomplished by this Association along these legitimate lines, and in attracting public attention to the evil and shortcomings in our laws and practice, and

by concentrated action more speedily remedying these defects than otherwise could have been accomplished, still, so diversified and large are the interests of this Commonwealth, so large is our pauper and insane population; so grand and munificent are our public and semi-public charitable institutions, each ordinary year is sure to produce new and important questions to interest this Association and call for its action. Wise and generous has been much that has been accomplished in the past, still, each session new and remedial legislation and recommendations have been found necessary. This being so in ordinary years, is increased and intensified this year, because the war which has just practically closed with such honor and success to our Nation, its Army and Navy, has presented, will present, new questions for the consideration of this Convention. Many hitherto happy, contented, prosperous families, by said war, find themselves torn; diseases incurable and far-reaching in their results to be met, and while the honor and generosity of this Nation, will not permit the heroes of this war and their families to become paupers, still, with all the justice meted out, there will be on this account, constantly additional need of well directed charity in its broadest and best sense. To regulate and control these and all charitable questions, by general and well defined regulations and not by spasmodic and special action, will require all the good care and judgment of this Convention. Our Hospitals and similar charitable institutions, in these times of need, have, by their offers of assistance, and by assistance rendered, proven themselves worthy of the appropriations received from the Government, and convinced all of their worthiness for future aid, and the actions of these institutions have convinced all of the wisdom of liberal appropriations to public and semi-public charitable institutions for the future.

In the general scramble for appropriations, it will stand this Association well in hand to see so far as in its power that meritorious institutions and measures are not overlooked or slighted. Through the efforts of the Association in the past, many pernicious and special laws have been abrogated; the poor laws simplified and largely codified. Many serious questions, however, remain unsettled, a serious one being, some more practical method of prevention of importation, not so much from foreign countries as from our sister States, of paupers and insane. So serious is this evil growing, that at the last session of the National Convention of Associated Charities, held in New York City, it received much discussion, but so far without any practical solution of the evil. If this Convention can assist in solving this problem, this alone will entitle it to great praise. Under the recent decision of the Superior Court in the case of *Cumberland County vs. D. S. Mohler, et al.*, Directors of the Poor of Cumberland County for 1896, from Cumberland County, it would seem that if this decision applies to all Poor Districts, then at once additional legislation enlarging the powers of Directors of the Poor, authorizing Poor Directors to send or pay the expenses of officers, matrons, superintendents, etc., of the District is needed; because if the past

of this Association has established any one thing more firmly than another, it is the benefits to Poor Districts derived from these officers being in attendance at the sessions of this Association. If this construction of the law as made in this case is correct, and applies to all the districts, unless remedied by additional legislation, it may seriously affect the future of this Association, as it will mean the keeping from these annual gatherings of some of our brightest and best members.

From my knowledge of this Association and its work, while at all times everything has been harmonious, still this thought has occurred: Its membership being composed of Directors of the Poor and Charities, the duties of which are dissimilar. Those of Directors of the Poor being clearly defined by law; their every outlay directed and only by authority of some law, their duties being called charitable, but really being ministerial and exacting and only in compliance with some law; while the duties of the Directors of Charities may be, indeed almost always are purely charitable.

While at first one might consider their office and duties similar, such is not the case. The questions which may, which do, interest directors of some Ladies Aid Society or some purely charitable body being of no practicable use to Directors of the Poor or *vice versa*. That because of this disparity of interests and duties, what is food and drink for the one, is of no particular benefit to the other; hence the possible wisdom of dividing our association meetings, at least for a portion of each day, into classes or divisions, where questions interesting the one or the other portion of the association, can be discussed and acted upon, without requiring the attendance of all, leaving the larger portion of our meetings for questions of general interest to all.

In order that the best possible results may be obtained, let each member actively interest himself in its proceedings.

We have a large and interesting programme for this Convention, many of the topics being on new subjects of importance. Hence the necessity of brevity on matters before the Convention and the confinement of all discussion to matters strictly relevant.

As your presiding officer, I congratulate you on the attendance, on the favorable auspices under which we meet and on the assemblage of so many of the old and active members, also upon the fact that among those now in attendance are many whose interest in matters pertaining to this association assures us of their activity for the welfare of this Convention.

The Association is organized for the public good, it belongs to no special clique or class; it is your Convention. [Applause.]

Committee on Program presented following as order of business:

Tuesday, October 25, 1898, 10 o'clock A. M. The Association will meet in the Chestnut Street Hall, Harrisburg, Pa., and the meeting will be called to order by the President, John F. Scragg, Esq. Music by select choir; Prayer by Rev. W. J. Grissinger; Address of Welcome, Hon. John D. Patterson, Mayor of the City of Harrisburg, Pa.; Response to Address of Welcome, John Wilson, Washington, and Fred Fleitz, Esq., Scranton Pa.; Response on part of Ladies' and Aid Societies, Mrs. Belle K. Richards, Venango, Pa.; President's Address, John F. Scragg, Esq., Scranton, Pa.

Enrollment of Delegates. On call of counties, Institution or Society, each Board of Directors of the Poor, Institution or Society present will hand to the Secretary a list of its Delegates who are present, with their addresses.

Appointment of Committees. Committee on Officers; Committee on Finance and Auditing; Committee on Place of Meeting; Committee on Resolutions; Committee on Legislation. Committee of Delegates to National Conference and Committee on Program will be appointed by the President-elect and published in the proceedings. Recess to 2 P. M.

Tuesday evening, Special, 7:30 o'clock. Music.—Address—*"Our Present Poor Laws—What we Need, and the Legislation that Should be Passed;"* with Report of Legislative Committee, Hon. E. P. Gould, Erie; Address—*"County Care of Chronic Insane. Observations and Results Since the Passage and Approval of the Law;"* Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, Sec. Com. Lunacy; Address—*"The Labor Question and its Effects on Charities;"* Hon. T. V. Powderly, Scranton.

Tuesday October 25, 1898, 2 o'clock, P. M. Miscellaneous business; Unfinished business; New business; Announcement of Committees; Reports of Homes and Institutes Parliamentary rules will be observed throughout the sittings of the Convention. The program as arranged will be continued from session to session until exhausted.

Reports. One-half hour will be devoted at the opening of each session to the hearing of reports. Counties will be called in alphabetical order, and as they are called it is very desirable that the Steward, Superintendent, Secretary or person in charge will be prompt in responding and make such report as to public charity work and of the Home, Institution or Society in his county as shall be of interest to the Convention. It is intended that all Asylums, Homes, Aid Societies in the counties, as they are called will report. Every member will be at liberty to discuss every report after it is properly before the Convention.

Papers, Topics and Reports. The following topics have been selected and assigned:—Report—Industrial School for Wayward and Incurable Girls at Indiana, Mrs. Sue Willard, Indiana; Paper—“*The Abolition of Public Outdoor Relief in Cities and Rural Districts*,” William M. Brown, Erie; Paper—“*The Prevention of Feeble-Mindedness from a Legal and Moral Standpoint*,” Dr. M. P. Barr, Sup’t. Feeble-Minded School, Elwyn; Topic—“*The Rights of Dependent Children*,” Edward E. Long, Montgomery; Paper—“*Our Duties to Families of Soldiers who are Serving in the American-Spanish War*,” H. W. Graybill, Lancaster; Topic—“*How Can Hospitals Best Assist Directors of the Poor in Caring for Destitute Sick and Injured*,” Dr. James W. Walk, Philadelphia; Report—Children’s Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania, Mrs. F. B. Reed, Clearfield; Children’s Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania, Miss Mary F. Buckley, Philadelphia; Paper—“*Benefits of Associated Charities to Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of Almshouses*,” J. W. Peck, Somerset; Paper—“*The Care of Crippled and Deformed Children*,” Mrs. Elizabeth P. Neill, Titusville; Report—“*Feeble Minded Institute at Polk, with Results*,” Dr. J. Moorhead Murdoch, Polk; Paper—“*The General Outlook of the Charities of the State, and the Ultimate Results of Our System of Work, and How it may be Improved*,” Hon. Cadwalader Biddle, Gen. Agt. Board of Charities.

The enrollment of Delegates was proceeded with:

ADAMS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John Herpst, Edward Waltman—
Buchner, D. P. Panebaker.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy, President; H. W. Ochse, Secretary; Robt. Smiley, S. W. Lea, Superintendent; Mrs. S. W. Lea, Matron.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny Department of Charities*—Wm. P. Huucker, Superintendent; Robt. D. McGonnigle.

BEAVER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carney.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Geo. T. Trail, President; Joseph Penrose, Watson W. Cessna, David F. Lutz, Steward; Mrs. F. V. Lutz, Matron.

BLAIR COUNTY—*Almshouse*—M. L. Derukst, Wm. M. Brown, Mrs. W. M. Brown, P. H. Bridenbaugh, Steward.

CAMBRIA COUNTY—*Almshouse*—James Somernell, James Moon, Thos. J. Hughes.

CARBON COUNTY—*Middle Coal Field Poor District*—John Schwartz, Samuel. Gangweve, Geo. T. Wells.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—J. Preston Thomas, Sam'l. Wickersham, John L. Smith, W. Harmar Davis, Steward; Mrs. Mary Davis, Matron.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Gaylord Smith, O. P. Blakeslee, John Hotchkiss, W. C. Graham.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John H. Ployer, J. E. Einstein, George O'Hara, J. C. Davis, M. D.; L. S. Hatfield, R. W. Woods, D. S. Mohler.

DAUPHIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—J. L. Lyme, William Look, Isaac Hoffman, Edward Humell, Steward; Mrs. E. F. Humell, Matron; G. A. L. Row, Clerk.

DELAWARE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—W. Glover, Clark, President, Newton P. West, Treasurer, Razell E. James, Secretary.

ERIE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—G. Sid. Beavis, John H. Osborn, H. S. Barnes, Wm. M. Brown, Steward; J. M. Force, Attorney; Col. E. P. Gould, Representative Soldiers and Sailors Home.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Joseph M. Bates, Director; Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Newcomer, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Detwiler, Mrs. Hugh L. Rankin.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John G. Youst.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Blakeley Poor House*—John Lillebridge, President; Ed. A. Jones, Secretary; B. J. Lynch, Frederic W. Fleitz.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Carbondale City Poor House*—Edwin Moore, J. J. Connell, A. W. Daley.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Hillside Farm*—W. A. Paine, M. D.; F. L. Terppe, J. J. Murphy, Fred K. Fuller, W. S. Langstaff.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Fell Township*—Henry Loftus, Thomas Calahan.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—R. W. Bard, H. W. Graybill, J. S. Struse, M. H. Grube, J. H. Weaver, Fred Shoff.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jacob S. Kereider, Isaac K. Mumma, Davilla Doumoger, John H. Light, Samuel Weiss.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—Louis Fisch, S. H. Oplinger, Charles A. Westfield, A. J. Bellas, E. J. Butler, M. D.; D. L. O'Neill, Attorney.

LYCOMING COUNTY—*Williamsport Poor District*—David B. Else, Charles T. Houston.

MERCER COUNTY—*Alms house*—H. D. Moses, James Miller, J. Kelly, J. S. Wallace, Superintendent.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Alms house*—William Kuder, Frank Eppeheimer, A. D. Aldefer, Ed. E. Long, Clerk and Solicitor.

MONTOUR COUNTY—*Danville and Mahoning Poor House*—P. M. Kerns.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Coal Township Poor House*—D. W. Zaring, David Hann, W. S. Heil, Harry E. Zaring, W. W. Ryon, Louis Correll.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Department of Charities and Correction*—Dr. Jas. W. Walk.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor District*—Charles S. Snyder, Allen J. Cassidy.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*County Home*—Harrison Gohn, J. W. Peck, Manasses Shumaker; L. C. Colborn, Attorney and Clerk.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—*Auburn and Rush Poor Asylum*—George M. Sheldon.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*County Home*—D. W. Myers, R. S. Wilson, Thomas Griffith, John Wilson, Mrs. L. A. Wilson, W. K. Lyle, and wife.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Alms house*—John R. Hayden, David Walton, William H. Evans, William Stoner, Noah Weller.

YORK COUNTY—*Alms house*—David Abel, Jacob Diehl, Isaiah Givens, Robert Boyd, Steward.

SOCIETY FOR ORGANIZING CHARITIES—*Philadelphia*—Dr. James W. Walk, General Secretary.

COMMITTEE ON LUNACY—Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, Secretary.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. M. L. Rankin, Mrs. Sue Willard, Mrs. F. Reed, Mrs. E. P. Neill.

Upon motion of Mr. McGonnigle, that the Chair be authorized at this time to appoint the Committees as per program, which motion is agreed to, the President appointed the following Committees, for the ensuing year :

On Place of Meeting.

LOUIS TISCH, Chairman.....	Wilkesbarre
JOHN H. OSBORNE.....	Erie
JOHN C. LYNE.....	Dauphin
WILLIAM H. EVANS.....	Westmoreland
P. H. BRIDENBAUGH.....	Blair

On Resolutions.

FRED FLEITZ, Chairman.....	Lackawanna
CHARLES SNYDER.....	Philadelphia
DR. J. A. WALK.....	Philadelphia
JAMES MILLER.....	Mercer
THOMAS TRAIL.....	Bedford
W. H. KUDER.....	Montgomery
MRS. H. L. RANKIN.....	Fayette

Upon motion of Mr. Snyder the Convention here adjourned until 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at 2 P. M. by the President, and the following Committees were announced:

On Legislation.

E. P. GOULD, Chairman.....	Erie
R. D. MCGONNIGLE.....	Allegheny
J. HOWARD MORRISON.....	Philadelphia

On Finance and Auditing.

H. F. DETWEILER, Chairman.....	Fayette
FREDERICK FULLER.....	Lackawanna
JAMES MOORE.....	Cambria

On Officers.

DR. W. A. PAINE, Chairman.....	Lackawanna
J. S. STRINE.....	Lancaster
J. W. PECK.....	Somerset
MRS. ELIZABETH P. NEILL.....	Crawford
DR. WELCH.....	Luzerne

The President read the following communication from H. L. Orth, to visit the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital :

HARRISBURG, PA., October 25th, 1898.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR.

Gentlemen:—The enactment of the County Care Act by the Legislature of 1897, and the utilization of its benefits by the Counties of this Commonwealth give you a personal interest in the workings of a hospital for the care of the insane, we therefore, extend to you a cordial invitation to visit this Institution daily, between the hours of 2 to 5 P. M.; when every facility will be accorded you for a careful inspection of the grounds and buildings.

Very truly yours,

H. L. ORTH, Superintendent.

Mr. Tisch read the report of Central Poor District of Luzerne county, which was ordered printed in Appendix.

Mr. McGonnigle: There is one thing in this report that struck me as singular, as compared with other districts, that is the matter of out-door relief, over \$15,000, as much as their other expenses. Of course there is a reason for it, for we all know that in the coal regions they have a trouble to contend with that many of us know very little about.

Mr. Tisch: It is easily explained. There is where you find thousands of people who are carried there by our corporations with the expectation of getting work and there is no work for them when they get there; and those families have to be taken care of. We don't care about splitting up families, and we take care of them and don't tear them apart if we can avoid it. That is why we pay so much for out-door relief.

Col. Gould, (Erie): These reports seem to omit an important feature and that is what it costs to keep the inmates of the various Almshouses, per capita, per week. That should be figured out and printed in the reports.

Mrs. H. L. Rankin, (Fayette) reads report of the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Fred Fleitz, (Lackawanna), Chairman of Committee on Resolutions submits report of the Committee, and upon motion the Resolutions following are adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

We, the members of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities in Convention assembled, hereby express our sorrow at the loss of those of our members who have been called to the other life since we last met, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved ones left behind.

We express our thanks to the officers who have so ably and faithfully conducted the affairs of the Association during the past year.

We sincerely urge that the Committee on Legislation will use their utmost efforts to secure, in the next Legislature, the enactment into laws of the various measures which have been endorsed by the previous Conventions of this Association.

We earnestly recommend that the members of this Association who desire to bring up for discussion by the coming Convention any subject, shall notify the Secretary in time so that the matter may appear upon the printed program.

FREDERIC W. FLEITZ, *Chairman*.
CHARLES S. SNYDER,
MRS. HUGH L. RANKIN,
WM. H. KUDER,
G. T. FRAIL,
JAMES MILLER.

Dr. Walk : I understand this is a partial report only. During the proceedings of the Convention resolutions have been referred to the Committee, and there are the customary resolutions of thanks, etc., which are proposed at the end of the session.

Mr. Fleitz : The Committee being still in existence, I think it would be entirely proper for the matters to be referred to the Committee on Resolutions. But it seems to me that the votes of thanks etc., are better acted upon by the Convention.

Dr. Walk : I don't want this Committee to get off any easier than we have heretofore.

President Scragg : It is a report so far as the Committee had anything before them.

Upon motion of Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia), the report is accepted and the Committee continued.

Mr. H. W. Graybill, of Lancaster, here read the following paper :

OUR DUTIES TO FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS WHO ARE SERVING IN THE AMERICAN-SPANISH WAR.

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention :—*The subject assigned me "Our duties to the families of soldiers who are serving in the American-Spanish war" was an appropriate one for discussion at a time when seventeen thousand of this grand old Commonwealth's favored sons were serving their country in behalf of liberty and freedom.

Now hostilities have ceased, twelve thousand of our brave warrior boys either have, or soon will return to their homes to follow peaceful occupations in pursuit of a livelihood and domestic happiness. The

question now might appropriately be asked; what shall we do and how shall we treat those who have returned home?

As to the subject assigned and those soldiers still in service, I would say we cannot do too much. Called from their homes and families, true to their allegiance to state and country, they shouldered their muskets and answered a nation's call. Neither a mother's tear-dimmed eyes, a sister's entreaties, nor the kiss of a beloved wife and child could induce them to remain at home when the religious and civil liberty of a down trodden people were at stake. This is true patriotism, not only love for country, but love for life, for liberty, and for the supremacy of justice, equity and right over wrong. If a man of wealth, position and power shall be called great, what shall we call him who sacrifices home, comfort, and position for the sake of freedom and freedom's rights? What shall we do for his family when the small pittance paid him by the government for his services, is not sufficient to support him and his household, what shall we do for the beloved wife, his sweet-heart who never knew trial and tribulation until she saw him leaving her doorway and disappear behind yonder landscape, wondering if her head will ever again rest upon the shoulder that pillowed it a few short moments before or if that beloved form, once the head and support of her family, should find an untimely grave in some foreign clime?

For this wife, the mother of his children, our duty is support, attention and care. We should see that she is comforted and provided for, as bountifully as when he is present. Our duty to his children is one that would suggest itself to every father throughout this country if he would only ask himself what he would have others do for his children. In other words, follow the Golden Rule and do unto the children of others as you would have others do unto your children. You would have others feed your children, care for them and educate them. The government has made a wise provision for the education of the children of soldiers, and for the pensioning of their wives, but you must not let that divert you from the course you should follow. A school maintained by the government or a pension paid by the United States will not bring the desired end unless some one is interested, unless some one will see that the money is properly applied or the school is attended. It takes your sympathy, your judgment, your interest in these little ones, in this widow, to make their lives tolerable and bearable.

But while the soldier is alive and well and in the service of the Government, his wife and his children receive no pension and his pay is only fifteen dollars and sixty cents per month. It is then that your assistance financially and mentally are the most benefit. That is the important time to lend a helping hand, to support, maintain and educate his family. Your duty is so clear and your moral obligation is so great and should be so well understood that I shall pass on to the second part of my paper suggested in the beginning.

The query suggested by myself: What shall we do with the soldiers who have been mustered out of service? is an important one in my

judgment. How should the Nation, the State, and the people at large treat those who helped plant our national emblem on the crest of the hills at Santiago, in the tropical clime of Puerto Rico, and in the ever sunny soil of the Philippines? It seems now that where these brave boys have planted the Star Spangled Banner it will wave forever. And that the United States can now say with the mother country, "on our lands, on our territories, on our possessions," on the United States itself, "the sun never sets."

The charge of the Rough Riders, supported by the 10th colored Cavalry and the 21st Infantry, together with that significant victory won by Dewey at Manila, his victory being followed up by the victory of the 10th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, by which the conquest of the Philippine Islands was made complete, three important territories were added to our Government.

What treatment, what favor, shall be shown to the brave boys who with Sampson and Schley captured the entire Spanish fleet without the loss of even one vessel?

It was these brave soldiers and sailors that freed from the Spanish chains of taxation and starvation the inhabitants of these islands which seem to be favored with plenty by the Maker of heaven and earth in their creation.

With the exception of our own Revolutionary war, in which our forefathers shook from themselves the fetters of taxation and oppression, this was one of the most important wars, though of short duration, ever waged. Its briefness being due largely to the superior ability of the Administration directing it and the superior ability of the men engaged.

But they have finished the fight and the victory is ours and now it is for us to say what shall be done for the victors.

How should the government treat those who are permanently injured? This we will not try to solve, but having confidence in the Administration that has so successfully waged the war will hope for its continuance in power until all these matters have been disposed of.

It would seem that New York has taken the initiative in opening the way for political preference to the veterans of this war by the nomination of Col. Roosevelt for Governor of that State. Whether or not this precedent should be followed, must be left to the people of each locality. But I do think that when preference can be given, or favor can be shown to those who have laid their lives in their country's hands, it should be done.

But the members of this Convention no doubt think I have been evading my subject. I probably should have discussed the duty of our State and county Institutions of which we are the representatives toward the families of the soldiers now serving, and toward the soldier now mustered out of the service.

To be brief, I think we should throw our doors wide open to receive their sick and wounded, and give them the best care possible at our hands ; as to their families, it might be well, especially when they are in destitute circumstances to give them assistance in the form of outdoor relief. My remarks as to the duty of citizens toward these families of soldiers will appropriately apply to the Directors of the Poor in their official capacity. Every Board should constitute itself a Committee to see that no soldier's wife or child shall be in want for food, clothing, or fuel. Again do unto them as you would be done by.

In conclusion I want to say that if the reports of the daily papers are correct, I am afraid that we, in our institutions, have not been doing our duty as well as private institutions, probably for the reason that the idea has gone abroad that private hospitals, both those receiving State aid, and those supporting themselves, give better treatment to patients than our county institutions. It is a mistake that an impression of this kind should get abroad, and while we do all in our power for the comfort of the soldiers and their families, let us send out the impression and the fact that our institutions are as good, if not better, than any private institution in the State.

President Scragg calls for discussion on this paper :

Mr. James Moore, (Cambria): I would not say one word against the soldier who went out, I went out myself, at a time that tried men's souls, and I left a wife and little children, but then it had to be done. But this time the men who went out with families dependent upon them, had no need to go. I know of hundreds of men who were turned away, who wanted to go, because they couldn't see half a mile, or something like that. But in our place I know of two or three families, inside of two weeks after the soldiers went away, that were applying for aid. If those men are away now and their families are suffering, I think they should be sent home. I don't think we should be held responsible for the families of soldiers who did not need to go.

Col. Gould, (Eric): It is true that this Government, in a righteous war can raise 300,000 men and not call for a single married man : there would be enough volunteers. I have had almost daily applications for my influence to get married men out of the service, because of their families. But those men *did* go and they are in the army to-day, and shall we neglect their families because they didn't need to go ? They may have gone and enlisted when there was no necessity for it, but having gone and left their fami-

lies there is a duty upon those who stayed at home and are able to take care of them. It would be unworthy an American citizen to see the family of a soldier suffering in their absence, and neglect them—whether or not they went justifiably. [Applause].

Dr. Walk: I wish to narrate to the Convention how we have dealt with this matter of temporary relief of soldiers' families in Philadelphia. We were confronted with the relief of the soldiers in the field, in the way of supplies for the sick, and also with the care of families who were left destitute. The organization that took up the work was called "The National Relief Committee," with its headquarters in Philadelphia. This Commission raised a good deal of money and collected a great amount of supplies. They appointed committees to visit the camps and the reports of those committees have been extensively published. They met with the same difficulty that others have encountered in breaking through the red tape, which hampered the efforts of those who desired to improve the condition of our soldiers. It was the purpose of those of us who were in charge of the relief work among families to make it as quiet as possible; because if it is generally understood that relief is being given to families, you will always have a great many families to relieve.

The relief of families was entrusted to a committee of this National Relief Commission, under the Chairmanship of Rev. Dr. H. L. Duhring, a gentleman who has had a great deal of experience in relieving the poor. He tried to keep the matter quiet and he managed to have all the family relief go through that one channel. In New York City they had five different societies to relieve families and I am told that some families got as much as \$200.00 a month, in that way. Our City Councils had their relief appropriation distributed by Dr. Duhring's committee. All the applications made to any one were sent to this committee and the Chairman distributed them according to locality. All the cases in ward 15 would be put together and all in ward 10 would be put together and so with the others. These cases were then investigated by the Superintendent of the local Charitable Society in that ward. If there had been much newspaper talk about this work, some people would doubtless have objected to

it ; but there was really no objection whatever from soldiers' families themselves. The investigations were made in a very kindly spirit, and very promptly and thoroughly. This special work came in the summer, when the Charity Officers had not as much to do as in the winter. The first thing investigated was whether or not the applicants were really the families of soldiers. A good many applied who had no relative in the army at all. These were dropped out at once. If the applicants were, in fact, the families of soldiers, the next question was whether the soldiers, when at home, had supported them. You know sometimes, when a husband goes away, the wife gets along better than when he is home. In a case like that, she was not a suitable beneficiary of the Relief Commission.

When the family's bread-winner : father, husband, brother, or son, was away and could not send money home, this fact would be reported to this committee, of which Dr. Duhring was Chairman, and an appropriation would be made for that family. The idea was to give about \$5.00 a week, \$20.00 per month, for a moderate sized family, more for a large and less for a small family. All the money came through this committee and was drawn from the treasury of the Commission ; but the investigations were made through the ordinary charity channels and do I not think there has been any dissatisfaction at all about the method. This work was carried on up to the 1st of October. Since that, our Philadelphia soldiers have all come home ; but in some of the counties near Philadelphia there have been a number of cases where the families have been helped in the same way. I do not think we will have a great deal of trouble with this form of distress in the future, because the number of cases will be small, as compared with the great number of cases left after the civil war. After all, in this big country, the number of families, whose destitution is due to the recent war, will not exceed a few in each neighborhood.

William M. Brown, (Erie), presented the following paper on :

THE ABOLITION OF PUBLIC OUT-DOOR RELIEF IN CITIES AND RURAL DISTRICTS.

The subject assigned me on this program is one that has been debated before the several State Conventions for many years, and it has been one of the most difficult problems to solve that has ever come before this or any other charitable organization.

In the past twenty years this Association has found light and knowledge on many other questions which at the time seemed equally perplexing ; among them the care and keeping of the insane in almshouses, also the care and keeping of the children then in the almshouses, etc.

These two problems mentioned have been solved to some degree of satisfaction, and have brought about wonderful changes in all our charitable institutions.

Those of us who remember back only a few years can recall an entirely different state of affairs in the management of our county homes and almshouses throughout the Commonwealth, but with all our experience, discretion, and wisdom, no satisfactory arrangement has yet been made for dispensing out-door relief, and with the Directors of the Poor and other organizations of charity, this vital question still remains to be solved.

It is a subject that calls out the sympathy and best judgment of all whom it concerns.

The Divine injunction, The Poor ye have always with you, is true now as it ever has been, and this being true, it follows now as it did then, that they must be cared for.

The intelligent, judicious granting of relief to the out-door poor is a matter that requires much careful study and investigation, and is a fact which all will admit, that the more intelligent a people, the better the care that is taken of the poor and indigent.

To a certain element existing in our cities and country, classed as out-door poor, a certain amount of relief, simply to tide over, may and must be given. Can I say to the organization of charity, or the Directors of the Poor of my district, give no assistance to my neighbor, who, through sickness perhaps, has come to the point where he is in want of the common comforts of life.

He has always been self-supporting, but misfortune has overtaken him, and he is in absolute need and must have help from some source. There is a prospect that in the near future the wife or children will find employment, and will again be able to support themselves.

While this may be a rare case, yet almost every district in the State, I doubt not, has had similar cases, and while no one doubts the propriety of giving aid to such worthy poor, I think the Directors of the Poor of this Association will bear me out in the statement, that a great majority of those receiving aid are not of the worthy class I have just mentioned.

Many of them are in want because of indolence, or lack of a disposition to help themselves, or perhaps they have made bad use of what they might have had for their support and comfort, counting on receiving aid from public charity when needed. They have by the influence of personal friends wishing to help them, and by other influences, made their claim appear worthy, and so succeeded in getting their names placed on the list for out-door relief, and I am convinced that when one of this class has once received aid from public charity, it takes more than ordinary vigilance on the part of the Directors of the Poor to ever entirely eradicate them off their list, or make them afterwards strictly self-supporting; and I believe it wrong in any poor district to be paying monthly pensions from the poor fund to this class, and lengthening out this kind of charity to a number of years.

The same principle follows in receiving indigent persons into Alms-houses; It is the general experience of the Directors of the Poor and Stewards of County Homes, that when one is once admitted to the home, that one, as a general rule, becomes a charge to the taxpayers for life; if not continuously, you are sure to have them every fall and winter. They think they are entitled to charity, and so depend on it.

Just recently an old couple were received into the Home in my town county, Erie, in a dirty, filthy condition, who had been drawing out-door relief for twelve or more years. Now, if charity is our object, would it not be much better to take such wards to the county home, where they can be fed, clothed and kept clean, and under some degree of discipline.

Out-door relief should be granted only after a thorough investigation as to the worthiness of the applicant.

It is not given to any one of us to be always wise, and few have the power to discriminate between the needy indigent and the one who thinks that the world owes him a living.

The compensation of the Directors of the Poor in this State hardly admits spending much valuable time looking personally after these wards. Consequently, the system of giving orders for out-door relief is done by recommendation of agents, neighbors and personal friends; while we believe the Directors are conscientious, and doing what they believe to be right, under the present system there seems to be a lack of means to make a more rigid personal examination.

As said before, The poor ye have always with you. This is an age of education in this channel of charity. Be charitable, but do not by example or precept teach the lazy, worthless, able-bodied indigent to go to the office of the Directors of the Poor for relief, when he is not using the means within himself to secure his own livelihood.

There seems to be no general rule under present existing circumstances that will apply in every portion of the Commonwealth alike. Different sections of the State are affected in different ways, and in counties where mining is the chief employment, and accidents are frequent, the demands for relief will be greater; hence a very judicious temporary

relief may be given to the worthy poor, and we will thus be carrying out our Christian obligation, and the wishes of the general public.

We take the broad ground that the able-bodied person in good health and strength, in every section or community where there is labor to be had by a little exertion on their part, even at low wages, as a rule should be self-supporting, and only where there is a family depending would, I think it advisable to give temporary aid for a time till he can better his situation and provide for himself.

But when he has got to be put on a pension list of public charity for a term of years in order to support the family, it would be far better to send him to the County Home; then look after the wife and children, provide homes for them where they will soon be able to take care of themselves. This will not educate the whole family to be a class of pauper charity students.

In closing these remarks, after drawing the line of worthy out-door relief as close as possible, it would seem to me our system of giving relief might be improved materially. The present system of giving all relief in the various districts of the State has become too common and easy, many persons drawing this relief if compelled to undergo a personal investigation by a thorough officer going into their homes, and looking into their actual situation, and then drawing their aid on the certificate of this officer, (or committee), would shrink from making application through this source; but under the present system every poor director's office is made a general grab-bag.

I am not an advocate of too liberal administration of out-door relief, but recommend that men, women and children be encouraged to support themselves if possible, and the families be kept together, by very careful judicious relief, where necessary.

Mr. L. C. Colborn, (Somerset): I have listened with pleasure to this paper; as Brother Brown has said it is a question that has annoyed nearly every Poor Board.

Somerset County a few years ago had some 80 to 100 names, for out-door relief, distributing from year to year in the neighborhood of \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Upon investigation the Directors came to the conclusion that a great majority of them could get along without this relief. By resolution of the Board the relief to all was suspended. There were four that came to the Poor House. Those four were better cared for in the Almshouse than they had been at home with this relief. Since that we have been giving no out-door relief except in cases of accident or sickness in the family.

There were quite a number we knew we were educating to be paupers. And if Directors will investigate the matter they will

come to the conclusion that they are only educating people to become paupers by giving them out-door relief. Among the vast number that received out-door relief—whole families that had grown-up children, and who depended largely upon this help, and you could hear them talking about it—as the soldiers' families talk about their pensions—they counted the day when they should draw their relief from the county. When it was stopped they complained about it, but when they were told that the only alternative was to come to the Home they didn't come. It has been the experience of the best charitable workers in this State and all over the country and in foreign countries, that giving out-door relief creates more paupers than it saves.

Occasionally, when the head of the family is taken sick or meets with an accident, with a number of children, you give them out-door relief to tide them over that sickness and they will be grateful for it, but if you put them on the list and continue them on the list you are making paupers out of the children. [Applause.]

Mr. Gaylord Smith, (Crawford): I am here to represent Crawford County. We levy a tax and see that it is collected and try to see that it is properly paid out. My friend over there (Mr. Colborn) spoke of paying out \$1,000 to \$1,500 for out-door relief in his county. We have a small county, a very good agricultural county, we have from 65,000 to 70,000 inhabitants.

In the year 1896 we paid out \$15,000 for out-door relief. The taxpayers thought that something was wrong: they elected a new set of men, and we cut it down from \$15,000 to \$9,000. The people thought they couldn't live, but they did. In our county it ran from \$2 to \$20 to a person. You may think we haven't a task there. I have visited every family in that county who is receiving out-door relief: I don't think there are six in the county but what I have been to their homes—others come to me and solicit of me. There were cases I knew were unjust, and where the person ought not to have relief, and still people would come and ask us to do an unjust thing—ministers and others—who didn't know anything about their real condition.

Mr. Browne, (Erie): There is one point I wanted to bring out in this paper; that is the system of giving out-door relief. I think if the Directors of the Poor and the County Commissioners—if there was a different way of giving out this relief, through the Directors of the Poor or it coming to them so as to keep the general public from running to the office for this money—I think there is a great evil in the way it is done. There is no poor office or County Commissioners' office where out-door relief is distributed but what they are pressed to death: they depend upon reports that come to them, and they give what they think is right: and they are honest in it. I think there should be some way to have an officer sent to investigate, and let him be the judge of the cases, after investigation, that it would give more satisfactory results, and would take this throng of people away from the offices.

James Moore, (Cambria): Our county is a mining and manufacturing county, where it draws the floating population to it.

We have cases where the father has left the wife with four or five little children. Now would you take those all to the Poor House? We have a society called the Union Benevolent Association. It is an outgrowth of the Red Cross Association. I go to those ladies, and the application is generally made to them first for aid, and I ask them as to the circumstances of the people and they answer that they have been there: and those ladies can go into their houses and see what they have when it wouldn't be proper for me to do that, and if those ladies recommend it I give aid: just enough to tide them over until they can do better.

We cannot abolish our out-door relief altogether.

People that haven't any little children dependent on them I tell them that they can go to our County Home, and if they say "I won't go there," I tell them then they must get along for themselves: and they do.

Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia): In my district this is a serious question. We give five or six thousand dollars a year for out-door relief. Our Board, it seems to me, doesn't take any interest in it; everyone that comes along gets the out-door relief. But I will say that our Board have all been arrested for being impli-

eated in furnishing supplies to the Institution: suit was brought before the Attorney General by the citizens to bring them to account, and the Attorney General decided that the furnishing of supplies to the Institution by any Director of the Poor was legal and right: and all of our Board are now furnishing supplies, and some of them to the amount of \$200 or \$300 per month. If it is legal for our Board it is legal for every Board in the State.

Last Thursday I heard the bills read, and one I know got \$250, and another one \$200, for supplies furnished from his own store to that Institution. Now is that right?

Mr. McGonnigle: This talk has taken a wide latitude. But out-door relief is one of the things we talk about and then quit, and then commence talking again. You might talk about it until the end of kingdom come and you can't lay down any cast iron rule. It is simply a matter of good judgment and common sense. Two or three years ago I met Mr. Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organization Society, of London, and I asked him what is the first principle of your Society, and he says "investigation, investigation, you never get to the end of your investigation," and he said, "Go on and personally investigate, that is the secret of all out-door relief."

But you can do the best you can, and decide each case fairly and honestly: without regard to whether or not it will cost money, but whether it is going to be the best thing you can do for that particular person. Possibly the granting of \$50 might put a family on their feet and enable them to take care of themselves for all time. You have to decide those things yourself. The principal thing is investigation. Decide each case on its merits; not only for the present but for the future.

A large number of these cases do not want relief; they want a friend, and if you can act as a friend of the applicant you get them started in the right direction. They say,

"The man is blest
Who does his best,
And leaves the rest
And don't worry."

Do the best you can. [Applause.]

Dr. Walk: I did not intend to take part in this discussion, but I wish to say a word in connection with the remarks made by my friend, Mr. Snyder. I agree fully with what Mr. Moore and Mr. McGonnigle have said: first, that it is a matter of locality and the kind of population, and finally that it is a matter of common sense.

In regard to Mr. Snyder's district I have long been convinced that out-door relief was not needed there, because it is a rural district and most of the people are well off, and in his district I do not think out-door relief is required. I am amazed that such a decision as Mr. Snyder speaks of should have been given. The Act of 1869 makes it a penal offense for Directors to furnish supplies to the institution they control.

Let me mention the experience of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in regard to out-door relief. Grand Rapids is a progressive city. It had been giving out-door relief which ran up to a number of thousands of dollars, year after year, providing it generally for the same people. The authorities did not seem to realize that a family with small children 15 years ago would now have grown up children, who could support themselves. Two years ago the city changed its Poor Board, and the new Board determined to stop all the old out-door relief, and they put up a notice that every one, who wanted help, must make a new application and submit to a new investigation. Now, what was the result? More than half of those who had been receiving out-door relief did not even apply, and it was found that in many cases relief was being given to families that had three or four grown up children and whose conditions had entirely changed since their first application years ago. Further, it transpired that of those who did make a new application, more than one-half were not in real need and their applications were refused.

President Scragg: Probably during the Convention no subject will come up that is more interesting than this. It has given the Scranton district a great deal of concern, and it is my judgment, after a careful study of it—and it is the best judgment of the best thinkers—that if there is to be any cast iron rule established that out-door relief is injurious. But I agree with Mr.

McGonnigle, that the good judgment of the Directors should govern, and there should be no out-door relief until there is thorough investigation and constant investigation.

Mrs. Sue Willard, (Indiana) here read the following paper :

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Impressed with a sense of feeling of the importance of doing something for the furtherance of the course of humanity and especially for those who in childhood are deprived of the proper care and tender ministrations of loving parents, we devised the plan of providing a home and as far as practicable a family home with all its elevating influences which you are all aware, go so far in making a happy, useful woman. In our Society the question often arose, what shall be done with the class of girls who are a little wayward but not criminals, or vicious? Shall they be sent to a reformatory and be branded as criminals, where all they needed was love and care? That was the only course, but it was repulsive and shocking to those having any sympathy for suffering humanity and that idea induced us to formulate the plan of a home, a real home, for that class of girls—not a home on the institution plan where the work is done in rows mechanically and with folded hands, but on the family plan and in order to accomplish this we limited the number to eighteen or twenty. After considering several locations it was decided to locate the home in Indiana, on account of it being so well adapted to supply all the wants of a well regulated family. We decided to purchase what was known as the McFarland property, situated on South Eleventh street. Its dimensions are 180x200 feet. The house contains ten rooms with bath room, laundry and good cellar, and a fine carriage house which we hope in time to convert into a school room. The price paid for the property was five thousand dollars, to be paid in one thousand dollar annual payments, until paid for with interest. We had possession September 1st, 1897, and formally opened our house September 30th, with the matron and one girl. The first three months our progress was slow, and in four months after opening the home our matron died in the Presbyterian Hospital. The house has been well furnished with the necessary equipments for good housekeeping, the girls doing the work under the efficient supervision of the Matron, Mrs. Shannon. During the first ten months the girls were sent to the model department of the Indiana State Normal School. But finding it materially interfered with the housekeeping arrangements of the home, it was decided to employ Miss N. J. McGaughey as resident teacher, she taking charge of the educational department September 12th, 1898. We have a school room furnished with the usual appliances for educational work, blackboard, &c., the books being furnished by the school board of Indiana. There has been donated to the home, a very well filled Library consisting of history, fiction, travels

and Sabbath school books, numbering in all 175 volumes. The average scholarship for the month ending October 11th, is 99 per cent. The girls attend Sabbath school and church service in the morning, and in the afternoon a song service; and a talk on the Sabbath school lesson is conducted at the home by Miss Sara Birkman, she having kindly offered to aid in the religious training of the girls. The services are made as interesting as possible. A number of our people frequently joining with us at that service. There has been little sickness and but one death, and that was a chronic case caused by abuse prior to her entering the home. We have cared for twenty girls during the year, at present there being eleven girls in the home. The average expense for the twenty girls for the past year not including clothing, is about ten cents per day. For eleven months we had only the Matron employed. Since September 12th we have employed a teacher. Our financial standing is this, we have \$2,500 to pay on our property; we are quite anxious to cancel this indebtedness as there are some repairs needed. But we think wise to be able to say the property is ours before we incur more debt. In this matter we appeal to our friends to help us. In closing my report, I desire to express my thanks to all who have aided me in what I have thought to be my special work, that is caring for homeless and wayward girls, and this being the only Industrial School for girls in Western Pennsylvania, we are very anxious for its success, and ask the co-operation of all interested in the work.

SUE WILLARD, Superintendent.

Mrs. Willard: We cannot lay down any cast iron rule in this institution. When a girl comes in we investigate her case and treat it accordingly. We think our school a great success.

Mr. McGonnigle: Where do you get the money to support this school?

Mrs. Willard: We get \$1.50 a week from the county.

Col. Gould: How far does your territory extend?

Mrs. Willard: All of western Pennsylvania. Our girls are raised like a family. We let them come in around us. It is just like a school. We have had but one quarrel since I have been there.

Mr. J. W. Peck, (Somerset), here read the following paper :

**BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATED CHARITIES TO THE
DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND SUPER-
INTENDENTS OF ALMSHOUSES.**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Members of this Association :

In the history of almost every Almshouse, it is an undeniable fact that at some period the inmates were but little better cared for than animals.

The condition which many of the poor houses were in called forth criticisms from the press, protests from those who were the subjects of public bounty, and appeals by the people for more humane laws and better regulations for the government of our county homes. Even those in authority were helpless to remedy the evils, or suggest a plan for the management of almshouses. When many of the Homes of the counties ought to have been a pride and public benefit, they were simply a disgrace, and in no way answered the purpose the law designed should be accomplished. While "wreck and ruin" were every where apparent, one, whose name is a household word with all who ever were members of this Association, moved by a deep sense of feeling and duty from the conditions of things as they existed, and acting in behalf of humanity, sent out a call for the convening of the Directors of the Poor in convention at Altoona, in June, 1876. This meeting, though sparsely attended, was the outgrowth of this magnificent Association, whose influence is so far reaching, and the direct cause of the reforms and the splendid condition of our almshouses, and the grand system of charities we have in Pennsylvania to-day.

The oft quoted sentence, "In the multiplicity of counsel there is much wisdom," is a very truthful one ; all the great political, national, or religious events that have passed into history, have been the outgrowth of the conclusions of men in council.

Political parties meet and formulate the policies of their parties ; religious societies convene and set forth the creeds of their various beliefs, while the basis of forms of wise government have been laid through the councils of men. Just now a commission of men are in session counselling and formulating rules and laws for the government of the newly acquired territory of our beloved country.

So it has been with the Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania. It was, and is, composed of representatives of all the charitable institutions of the State. It has had the benefit of the ablest and most experienced men in the country ; its object was to bring about reform in poor houses and institutional management, investigate and consider all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, devise means for the prevention of the same, suggest legislation and establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor throughout the State, and make friendly comparisons of the dif-

ferent systems of management. The good that the Association of the Directors of the Poor has done can not be estimated. The entire poor house management throughout the State has been completely changed and improved ; its influence has molded public opinion, shaped legislation, shattered prejudice, and enlightened public conscience, so that the relief offered to poverty, suffering and want was never so systematic, universal and effective as to-day. The further object and purpose of this grand Association is in keeping and accord with the spirit and genius of that magnanimous and heroic soul, the peaceful and peace-loving Penn, who, in the morning twilight of our history, laid the foundation of the Commonwealth, who aspired to victories of peace rather than war, interpreting more faithfully the teaching of the Divine Master, and fulfilling more nearly the works of charity and benevolence.

This Association, now holding its twenty-fourth annual convention, may look with pride back over the 23 years of its labor. To recount the direct results of its labors would be tedious, and those accomplished through its influence would be next to impossible.

No one has ever attended these meetings without being greatly benefited. It has given us a more perfect and systematic method in dealing with our charities, and it has been the means of cultivating a more liberal growth of sympathy and humanity in the administration, and has educated the public mind to a much broader philanthropy ; it has taught the true meaning of charity, and our duty with a humane sympathy for all future suffering, and the true needs of the poor and distressed. The benefits flowing to the Director of the Poor from the attending of these meetings can not be estimated.

The few sessions it has been my privilege to attend have given me more information in regard to the duties pertaining to the poor than I could possibly gain anywhere, and when I speak for myself I voice the sentiment of all. We meet, become acquainted with our fellow directors of adjoining counties, exchange views and ideas, thoughts and suggestions in regard to the management of the homes and farms, while the theories, observations and experiences given us by men and women who have long been engaged in the work, help us to act and decide upon cases which before we were entirely ignorant of.

The visitations to the various poor houses and Institutions when attending these meetings, have been of great benefit to all directors. It has awakened a pride in all, and has been the means of improving our poor houses without a material increase of taxes, simply because they learned how and practiced the economy which they learned at these meetings. It is to be regretted that every Board of Directors in the State is not represented. The Institutions miss that which would be of vast benefit to them by not being present.

Narrow-minded and small indeed is the county auditor who for the sake of pacifying some begrudging tax-payer, would surcharge the Directors of the Poor with the expense of attending these conventions. It is against public policy ; he is not public spirited, and unfit for the position ; the law allows it, and where it has been brought to the at-

tention of the Court, they have encouraged the Directors in their attendance upon these meetings. The benefit derived by the Directors of the Poor in the management of the poor house, is worth more to the directors than many times the expense to the county to attend.

In conclusion, let me say with emphasis, that the benefit received by the Directors of the Poor in attending these meetings, is inestimable, and the Commonwealth owes a debt of gratitude and thanks to our fellow worker and secretary, Mr. R. D. McGonnigle, for his untiring work and zeal in establishing and organizing this Association, and the interest shown in the welfare of all its meetings.

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Neill, (Titusville), here read the following paper on

CARE OF CRIPPLED AND DEFORMED CHILDREN.

Mrs. J. L. Anderson, who is well known to many of you, to whom this paper was originally assigned and whose name by the way is the synonym of every good word and work, was unable to be present with us to-day.

I therefore am here—not to fill her place, which would be impossible, but simply to prevent this part of the program from going by default—by presenting a few thoughts for your consideration.

The subject is such a broad one that I scarcely know how to attack it. I take it that it is only dependent children, principally crippled and deformed children in institutions, or public homes to whom my subject refers.

There are, as you are aware, many kinds of care—physical, moral, spiritual, all of which ought to be combined in the treatment, not only of the crippled and deformed, but of all children.

Just a few words upon physical care:

It is universally conceded, that the vital force of children in any way defective, either mentally or physically, is lower than that of perfect children—consequently I think unusual precaution should be taken in many directions, in the physical training of crippled and deformed children; for instance, healthful surroundings—good air, pure water, and nutritious food. Many of these children have been brought from the slums of cities, where they have breathed noxious vapors instead of pure air—where the scanty food they have eaten has gone far toward reducing instead of building up their vital force, and where the water they have drunk has been little better than poison.

As in the majority of cases of deformity the causes are prenatal—great effort should be made to ascertain these causes, as this knowledge may point to peculiar methods of treatment, which would otherwise not be discovered.

For instance, much mental agony might be spared these children in the direction of antipathies or shrinking terrors—which cause may act seriously upon the physical condition—by discovering the causes of

these things and removing the child as far as possible from these causes.

Another important requirement, should be self-help. When a crippled or deformed child really needs help, give it by all means, but insist upon these children doing for themselves all they possibly can, for it is a mistaken kindness, indeed no kindness at all, to follow such children about, and do for them what they can and ought to do for themselves.

A child crippled or deformed in its feet or lower limbs, may and probably will be inclined to remain in one position longer than is conducive to health. Such a child should be encouraged—nay, even coerced into making all possible effort in the direction of walking.

Or if the child be disabled in its hands or arms, let special care be taken to induce it to make what effort it can towards using its poor, crippled fingers. I know a lady in the community in which I live, whose hands are so crippled by rheumatism, as to be scarcely recognizable—and yet by patient persistence she has been able to retain her clearly legible handwriting, and even to use the needle with considerable dexterity.

Even in cases of extreme deformity, children might be taught to dress and undress themselves, even though a long time be required in the process.

And all this, not only that time and labor may be spared those who have the care of such children, but because we believe that such self-reliance and independence of action conduces to mental activity, and unmistakable pleasure in the child.

I have in mind a boy now fourteen years of age, who is a cripple from rickets. In his little boyhood he was bright and intellectual, but as the disease developed and he became a pitiable hunch-back, confined to his invalid chair—his mother and sister his willing slaves left no want unsupplied, or no effort on Harry's part allowable, so far as they could prevent it—and instead of having any resources in himself, he is a semi-idiotic *burden* to himself and to his friends.

It seems to me that nothing could be more effectively utilized in the care of crippled and deformed children than well organized kindergarten work. With the new and perfect appliances in this direction, there will be found something to fit every case—and joy and usefulness might come into many little lives which would otherwise be barren and joyless.

For instance, a child absolutely unable to walk could be taught the names and uses of the myriad shapes—squares, cones, cubes, pyramids, etc., found in every kindergarten outfit, getting from the lessons connected with these a vast deal of instruction and the means of passing what would otherwise have been long, tedious hours.

Even children who have the use of neither hands nor feet, but must lie on their poor little crippled backs all day, could learn from charts, such as all kindergarten teachers have, the mechanism of the human frame, the name and motions of the heavenly bodies, and even some-

thing of the other forces of nature. Or if a child has nothing he can utilize but his voice, he can be taught to sing the delicious melodies composed for children, and nothing brings a child nearer Heaven than the sweet, tender songs written for them nowadays, by those whose hearts go out in loving sympathy to the little ones.

Mr. Strine, of Lancaster, in his admirable paper, read before the Convention at Scranton, said :

"The idea seems to be born with man himself, that unless he is compensated for his labor he will do nothing. Therefore, it seems to me to be conclusive, that unless you give to the person confined in your institution a part of his earnings, he will do nothing. In view of this very general idea among mankind I would say, give to your inmate ten per cent. of what he earns and let him use it as his own. This would be an incentive."

I do not see why this should not apply to children as well as to the older inmates of charitable institutions. If the idea of compensation *is* inherent, it might be well to develop and encourage it, even in comparatively helpless children. It might not be advisable to pay them in money, which would be of little value to them, but an incentive in the way of promised reward of some sort might prove beneficial at least in a few cases.

Mr. Strine says farther : "The hardest question to answer seems to me—what shall this work be?"

This might prove a difficulty in the case of children also, but one of the requisites in persons having the care of crippled and deformed children, ought to be resource and expedient in many directions, and any one possessing these requisites, would be able to find or invent employment even for helpless children.

Many other means for the improvement and pleasure of these little ones, occur to me, and what at first seemed a most difficult subject, grows upon me and becomes so prolific that I must hasten on lest I weary you.

"When the Christ walked the sorrowful paths of life" He healed all these diseases and all these deformities, by the touch of his hand. As we have it in Matt. 8:15, "He touched her hand and the fever left her." But this wondrous power died with Him, and the few of His followers to whom He gave it (our Christian Scientist brethren and sisters to the contrary), and it is only left for us to combine and use all the methods and appliances within our knowledge, for the alleviation of suffering we cannot cure.

The moral discipline of such children as we are considering, should be mild but firm. Put them upon their honor, and let their privileges be according to their behavior. Insubordination and especially disobedience should not be countenanced for a moment.

Some one has said that the best antidote for mischievousness is steady employment, and that a child whose hours are well filled with useful and interesting work will have but little opportunity for plotting mischief. Affliction or suffering should never be the excuse for badness, as

nothing is more conducive to piece of mind or strength of character, than self-control under adverse circumstances.

Just a word on the third and last division of my subject, viz: Spiritual care. Pardon me if I quote from another paper read before the Scranton convention, by Rev. Israel, of that city. He said: "There seems to me one great lack in the training of the children of our country. We build magnificent school houses for them, and under the best and most tried teachers, body and mind receive every attention possible. But we forget that man is of a triple nature—that he is not only body and mind, but also spirit. The child is not taught the meaning of spirit, and yet we know if we believe the scriptures, that this part of the human being is the most important of all, for the body and brain may die—but the spirit is immortal."

My opinion offered with all modesty is that the best spiritual training for all children, more especially such children as we are considering at this time, is to teach them the existence of a loving Heavenly Father, who looks pityingly upon their afflictions and gives them strength to bear their suffering. Teach them of the beautiful life above, where there shall be "no more pain neither sorrow nor sighing." Tell them of the gentle Saviour who suffered infinitely more than they suffer, that they might be made fit to enter this heavenly country, to dwell with him through all eternity.

Until they are old enough to understand that "God does not send trouble"—but that all suffering and sorrow is the result of broken law—it is better to teach them the simplest truths of the Gospel of Christ, leaving the weightier matters of the law until years and experience make them strong enough to take them in and understand them,

I have been so honored in having even a small part in this great Convention of charitable men and women that I wish most earnestly I might have presented something more worthy of your consideration.

But I console myself for the weakness of my paper with the thought that we are all, the weak as well as the strong, working along the same lines, and all towards the same end—the amelioration of the woes of the poor who are "always with us" and who will always be with us, (each in his own way, and with his own measure of ability), and all for the sake of that love which "suffereth long and is kind."

And this work is rich in its rewards—for there are few natures that do not feel the reflex influence of good deeds and kind words.

If I should see
A brother languishing in sore distress,
And I should turn and leave him comfortless,
When I might be
A messenger of hope and happiness—
How could I ask to have, what I denied
In my *own* hour of bitterness supplied?

If I might share
A brother's load along the dusty way,
And I should turn and walk alone that day,
How could I dare—
When in the evening watch I knelt to pray—
To ask for help to bear *my* pain and loss,
If I had heeded not my brother's cross?

If I might sing
A little song to cheer a fainting heart,
And I should seal my lips and sit apart,
When I might bring
A bit of sunshine for life's ache and smart,
How could I hope to have my grief relieved
If I kept silent when my brother grieved?

And so I know
That day is lost wherein I fail to lend
A helping hand to some wayfaring friend,
But if it show
A burden lightened by the cheer I send,
Then do I hold the golden hours well spent
And lay me down to sleep in sweet content.

Upon motion of Mr. Colborn the Convention here adjourned
to meet at this place at 7.30 this evening.

EVENING SESSION.

In the absence of President Seragg the Convention was called to order at 7.30 P. M. by Mr. McGonnigle.

Col. E. P. Gould, (Erie): A part of the duty assigned to me is to make a report of the Legislative Committee. After conferring with the other members we have agreed that there is very little to report upon, in addition to what was done at the Convention at Seranton. That Convention and previous Conventions have endorsed the poor-law bill passed at the last session of the Legislature and vetoed by the Governor for reasons not necessary to consider now, and the Committee are still of the opinion that that bill is the basis of what we need, to improve the poor laws of the State, and we recommend as a Committee that it be left to the Legislative Committee to introduce, in whole or in part, any portions of that bill as to them may seem best, for enactment at the coming Legislature, especially to have passed if possible Acts that will better define the dependency clauses in the Acts, the settlement question, and the more speedy determination of suits between poor districts, and such other measures as may to the Committee seem best.

Under the present status of the poor laws of Pennsylvania it is impossible, we regard, to pass a law making it compulsory upon all the counties to come under the county plan. For that reason we are of the opinion that any legislation on that subject, that is intended to be compulsory for them to come under the county plan will fail, however desirous it might be, and that it is better to put it in a position to pass an Act and not make it obligatory on the counties until they themselves endorse it. The overseer system has such a hold on the counties of the State, or some of them, that no member of the Legislature dare force the county system without the approval of the overseers in his county. If he does he forfeits his political standing in those counties.

So this is the recommendation of the Committee on Legislation.

Mr. McGonnigle: You report progress, and ask that the matter be left with the Committee, with power?

Col. Gould: Yes.

As to the balance of the matter referred to me I have prepared a short paper, which I will now read.

Col. Gould read the following paper :

CARE AND TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

Mr. President—Ladies and Gentlemen of the Association: The topic assigned me is so broad and comprehensive that it would be impossible to treat even cursorily the whole subject in the time allotted. In fact the three days of this Convention could be profitably spent in considering the various branches into which it naturally divides itself. I have therefore thought it best to limit this paper to the statement of a few thoughts and suggestions which seem to me important, on the necessity of a more advanced and humane care and treatment of the insane in this Commonwealth. I regret to say that Pennsylvania is far behind several other States in the enactment of laws governing the treatment of the insane, both as relates to our penal statutes, which sadly need reforming, and also medical psychiatry which seems to have fallen into a rut so deep that nothing short of positive legal enactments will be able to remedy.

I admit that the jurisprudence of insanity is less scientific and far behind the status of medical science on the subject of insanity, but both, in their practical application, are not in keeping with modern civilization.

In the study of insanity alienists have divided the insane into almost half a hundred classes, and yet the experts in medical science, who have the care and treatment of the insane, go on herding all classes from the idiot up to those affected with violent and acute dementia into the same institution, and so far as I have observed, have thus far opposed every effort to separate those who need expert medical treatment with a view of final restoration of their mental faculties, from those who by reason of idiocy, or a chronic impairment of the mind, require no need of medical treatment except for the ordinary diseases of mankind with which they may, from time to time, be afflicted.

Just why an expert medical alienist who has been selected on account of his comprehensive knowledge of the diseases of the mind and the advanced medical science in the treatment of the same, to take charge of an institution of the insane, should persistently oppose every effort to remove from such asylum any or all of those that are conceded to be past all hope of any radical improvement or recovery is beyond my comprehension. One would naturally think that it would be the highest ambition of such a man to devote all of his time to the study and treatment of those in his care who gave any hope of improvement, and would regard the care of all others as an impediment to his success in his chosen work; and yet we find such experts combining to prevent the

removal of that class which constitute the greatest hindrance to their success, and using all their influence to have other large institutions erected in which a like herding of all classes are to be kept and cared for. The Committee on Lunacy are to be commended for their recent action and recommendations on this subject. I hope and trust that the last large asylum for the insane in this State under the present system has been built. And I look forward in confidence that in the near future the care, management and treatment of the insane in this Commonwealth will keep pace with the most advanced ideas of medical science and mental philosophy. To accomplish this will in my opinion require as far as possible the separation of the insane into classes according to the peculiar form of insanity with which they are afflicted, or into such classes as will by association, least aggravate the phase of mental disease with which each patient is afflicted, above all acute cases, and those of short duration, should be so situated that their surroundings and associations would aid and not interfere in the efforts made for their restoration. This cannot be done in any of the State asylums for the insane in this State, in their present crowded condition. What is to be the remedy?

That which offers the speediest relief is the adoption of the Wisconsin plan as recommended by the Committee on Lunacy in the very able report on that subject of their Secretary, Dr. Henry M. Wetherell. This requires no additional legislation if there is a disposition to adopt it. Certain enabling acts might be necessary to adjust the plan to those counties that are not large enough to build and support a local institution in which to care for their chronic insane. If so they could be presented and enacted as the necessities arose. I am pleased to note that certain counties in this State are already moving in this direction, notably among which are Allegheny, Chester, Luzerne, Lancaster, Delaware, Clearfield, Elk and other Counties. Then secondly, I would recommend that more special efforts should be made by the State for the treatment and restoration of those afflicted with epilepsy. In this age of investigation every opportunity and assistance should be furnished to those scientists who are making a study of the causes of this disease as well as seeking a remedy for this unfortunate and hopeless class. When our State institutions are relieved by the removal of the quiet chronic insane, including those who are idiotic or in senile decay of intellect, there will be ample room then to properly provide for the epileptics without the erection of a State Institution for their care and treatment. Whether the cause of or cure for epilepsy will ever be discovered of course is uncertain, but so long as there is a doubt, every reasonable effort should be made to solve that doubt.

Lastly, I would strongly recommend that the criminal insane be removed from the asylums for the care and treatment of the general insane. For this purpose an institution for their care and custody should be built for that class exclusively. At the last session of the Legislature a bill was introduced to erect such a building on the grounds of and adjoining the Western Penitentiary, but for lack of funds to ap-

propriate, the bill did not receive the favorable recommendation of the Appropriation Committee. Such a bill should again be presented to the next legislature.

In submitting these suggestions I wish it distinctly understood that no criticism is intended upon any of the very able experts who have charge of our State Asylums as to their competency or zeal, but my sole aim is to call attention to the system that prevails, and have efforts made to lift them out of the rut which so greatly retards their progress and success.

Col. Gould: At the last session of this Association we adopted this resolution: "Resolved that the important question, the unwise expenditure of public moneys for institutions not under State control, by the State Legislature, so ably presented by Dr. Walk in his address, be referred to the Committee on Legislation, for consideration and report." The Committee have considered that subject, and would have made a report, but Dr. Walk has a resolution upon the subject which fully meets with their views, and I will ask you to adopt the resolution to be presented by Dr. Walk.

Dr. Walk: I do not intend to occupy any time in discussing this. I intend to make an address to-morrow on the general question of the hospitals not under State control, but as this was referred to the Committee on Legislation and the chairman, Col. Gould, has to leave for home to night, I will offer this resolution, hoping it may be adopted without opposition: "Resolved, that we recommend that all State appropriations to hospitals not under State control be based upon the amount of free treatment furnished by said hospitals to indigent persons."

The resolution of Dr. Walk is agreed to.

Mr. McGonnigle: Let me say something on this subject presented by Col. Gould. Possibly few in the room to-night will recognize as plainly as I do, the difficulties we have had about the insane. Twenty-five years ago it was costing the various counties about \$3.50 a week per patient, and through the efforts of this Association that cost was afterwards divided equally between the State and county, and it is now about \$1.75; and this brings to mind one of the great things this Association has

accomplished. It has saved a thousand times any expense that the Association has been to the State.

Then we had before us the question of the chronic insane being taken care of in the large asylums, and this Association assisted in having passed the Act, which was the Wisconsin plan somewhat modified, and which Gov. Pattison vetoed, and the Wernersville building was hardly established until we found that the Wisconsin plan was going to be adopted. It is a pity it wasn't adopted before the State spent half a million at Wernersville.

I agree with Col. Gould, that there should be some definite, fixed plan laid down for the care of the insane, and then that policy lived up to. And if it is found to be wrong then change it. The Wisconsin plan has been in operation for twenty years; but for some unexplained reason my good friend Dr. Wetherill was not sent there to investigate that plan, until a year ago. Now, why was it?

Then as to the Colonel's suggestion as to the care of epileptics. I think there is nothing the State needs so much as improvement in this matter. There is no class that need proper care so much. And it seems to me that if the State wants to do something in a new department that the establishment of an asylum or home for epileptics is the thing to be done.

With reference to the criminal insane, I don't know much about them. I guess it would be a good plan to put them all by themselves. Take them out of the hospitals.

Now, these are my thoughts, and I think you will agree with me that it is time a policy was laid down, and that a definite plan—not having our Legislature appealed to to have this adopted one year, and then two years later change the whole thing.

I think the Wisconsin plan is the very thing that Pennsylvania should have and should have had years ago, and the question with me is why didn't we have it years ago? You could have had it as easily as we could have had the Wernersville plan adopted, and now we know that the Wernersville plan has been practically set aside.

Mr. Colborn: I agree exactly with what Col. Gould and Mr. McGonnigle have said. Why this plan was not adopted before I don't know. I hope that every county will avail themselves of the advantage of keeping their own chronic insane. Many of the counties have been keeping, for eight or ten years, their chronic insane that they could not keep anywhere else. Now they have an opportunity to put them in hospitals and receive a compensation for so doing.

Dr. Walk: It is strange that the authorities in Pennsylvania did not know about the Wisconsin plan. I visited the State of Wisconsin in 1882, and the plan was then in full operation and had been thoroughly described in printed reports and earnestly advocated by the people of Wisconsin. I do not know why it is that some of the governors of Pennsylvania have pursued the policy of selecting men to control the great benevolent enterprises of the Commonwealth who have had no previous training upon the subject. I once called upon a certain governor of our State, to recommend the appointment of a gentleman who had given nearly all his leisure time for twenty years to the subject of charities and correction. I wanted him appointed to a place where his familiarity with the subject would be a great benefit to the people of Pennsylvania and I urged his appointment for this reason. The Governor listened as if he was bored. A short time afterwards he appointed another gentleman to that particular position. I was so much surprised that I went to him again. I said to him that I knew the gentleman selected stood very high in the community as a business man, but had no experience or training for the office he was to fill. The Governor replied, "Doctor, that is the kind of men we want to have interested in our charities. He is a man of large wealth and high business standing." I said, "But Mr. Governor, you propose to interest him by putting him in a position where he will have large responsibilities, when he has had no experience and no opportunity to know how to discharge his duties." "Well," he answered, "of course he can soon get that."

Now we know that such knowledge is the result of years of study and work and it cannot be had in a few weeks, or a few

months. It is most unfortunate that in these matters very little attention has been given to the previous charitable and correctional education of appointees and yet there are charitable experts in this State who are fully prepared, so that instead of learning while in office they would know their duties when they entered upon them. We ought to compare our policy with the policy of other States and countries, improve it as much as we can, and then adhere to it. We should get rid of the uncertainty which now prevails in Pennsylvania's plan of administering her public charities. You know that a few years ago we had a Governor who said in effect: "I will sign all appropriation bills for new buildings or the completion of old buildings, but I will not sign any appropriation bills for the maintenance of private charities." Then the institutions tried to work on those lines, and, in a short time, another Governor comes in and says: "I will sign appropriation bills for maintenance but none for buildings." So we had a complete change of policy. We cannot expect all the members of the Legislature to be familiar with this subject; but there should be some definite established policy, so that our legislation from year to year may be conformable to some general plan. When the coming session of the Legislature opens, no man can tell what its policy will be in regard to charities and correction. It may adopt something entirely new, or it may go back and revive something twenty years old. We have no settled policy. Now the Wisconsin plan has been adopted. It seems to be the best thing we can do. It would have been wise if we had adopted it ten or twelve years ago.

I was in New York last May at the National Conference of Charities. There were very few delegates from Pennsylvania, but a great many from Wisconsin and Minnesota and a number of States further away. There is a lack of knowledge and of interest in this State and we are paying dearly for our indifference and ignorance.

If anything can be done by this Association to influence our State to adopt a definite and settled policy regarding the insane and other public dependents, we will have conferred a permanent benefit upon the people of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, (Philadelphia): Two years ago I made a count of the number of epileptics in various institutions in Pennsylvania under commitment of insane and I found there were 614. That same year I went to the southern corner of Ohio and I saw there a State Institution called the Institution for Epileptics; there was a farm near the river, and the epileptics were doing nearly all the work about the place: raising their own vegetables, working in the stone quarry getting out stone for buildings not yet completed: and all that at a much less per capita than the Wernersville Asylum is able to run on. The Superintendent told me that the expense had not quite reached \$2 a week.

I think it is well to have a separate State Institution for epileptics in Pennsylvania, if we can get it. There are objections to having epileptics and other insane people mixed together in the same Institution. It has seemed so difficult to get sufficient accommodation for the insane that we haven't discussed very much this subject of a separate Institution for the epileptics.

I have drawn two bills already on this subject: for the founding of a State building for epileptics in Pennsylvania. I don't know what was done with them. I never heard of them.

Dr. E. J. Butler, (Luzerne): As a physician, in a district that has suffered for several years for want of accommodation for our insane I rise to endorse the Wisconsin plan; which is the plan, I think, of the county taking care of its own chronic insane. I think it is time one and all should unite to bring about this grand result.

Where a son or daughter is placed away miles from home there is no chance for the poor father or mother to go and see them. There are great drawbacks in sending such persons to some far-away institution; and I think we could raise hundreds of points in favor of the home law. I think we ought, one and all, to endorse the home-taking care of the chronic insane. The Central Poor District, in which Wilkes-Barre is the largest city, have voted nearly a quarter of a million dollars: they are going to make a fine Home and make it so the friends of the inmates can go every day in the year, if they desire, and see their poor

insane boy or girl, or husband or son. I think the time has come to rise in our might and demand this.

Mr. Woods : I see that Dr. Wetherill has a paper on this subject, and it might be well to hear that and then discuss it.

Mr. McGonnigle : We are simply discussing Mr. Gould's paper.

Mr. Bridenbaugh, (Blair) : I agree with Mr. Woods. I would therefore call for Dr. Wetherill's paper, which was agreed to.

COUNTY CARE OF THE INDIGENT INSANE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ACT OF MAY 25th, 1897.

The urgent need for enlarged and adequate accommodation for the ever increasing number of the indigent insane of this Commonwealth and the best and most economical method of meeting this requirement are subjects which the Committee on Lunacy of the Board of Public Charities have continued to carefully consider and act upon during the year just closed.

Our report to the Board in 1896 presented and strongly recommended a radical change of method and policy in the public care of the insane, which was based upon a system that for the past seventeen years had been in successful operation in Wisconsin. This consists simply in an offer from the State to pay to counties and other localities the sum of one dollar and fifty cents per week for the expenses of each indigent insane person chargeable to such locality, who should be cared for and maintained in the County Home or Asylum of such county or district.

The same unfavorable conditions, which we in Pennsylvania are endeavoring to overcome, obtained in Wisconsin, before its adoption of the above plan, namely, greatly over-crowded State Hospitals for the Insane containing a large number of quiet, chronic inmates, who might be maintained comfortably in County Asylums at a much less cost. The Legislature of Wisconsin refused to grant funds to build any more palatial State Hospitals, which would be ruinously expensive to erect, equip and maintain and would become, as those existing were, mere asylums for chronics, with proportionately few acute cases ; all classes of patients packed together with little opportunity for cure or relief, and all maintained at a lavish and unnecessarily expensive per capita cost.

The necessary legislation having been obtained, many of the counties of Wisconsin issued bonds, raised money and built neat, substantial County Asylums, removed hundreds of their chronic insane from the State Hospitals, placed them in the new local institutions, where they

were comfortably maintained at an average per capita cost of about \$1.75 per week. Upon this payment by the State of \$1.50 per week for each patient, these counties have been able, within ten to twelve years, to pay for their entire investment in land, buildings and permanent improvements.

Freed from their burden of chronic cases, the State Hospitals of Wisconsin have been made curative institutions, with space to accommodate and treat the acute and other classes of the insane requiring hospital care for very many years to come.

The plan is of almost indefinite extension. There are now twenty-three County Asylums in Wisconsin, some erected on the sites of Alms-houses, others on separate sites. When the Hospitals accumulate chronics, or the pressure on existing Asylums is too great, another county comes forward and erects an Asylum: there is considerable emulation manifested between them as to which county shall have the new institution.

County care has paid well from the start and has so continued. In the words of the president of the State Board of Control of Wisconsin, "For each person cared for in our State Hospitals, the county to which he belongs pays \$1.50 per week and his clothing bill to the State. The State paying for the balance of his Hospital maintenance. For each inmate of a County Asylum the State pays the county \$1.50 per week. It will thus be seen that a county caring for its own (chronic) insane really gets \$3.25 a week in what it saves and what it received. The average weekly cost in these County Asylums, including everything, is now about \$1.75 per week, which makes an average gain of \$1.50 per week for each inmate."

In order to inaugurate a similar system in Pennsylvania and to try to establish a more rational, sensible and economical plan of care, the Committee on Lunacy in 1796 drew a bill which was submitted to the Board of Public Charities. This, being approved, was presented to the Legislature of 1897, with an earnest recommendation for its passage. The bill was passed and received the Governor's signature May 25th, 1897. It is No. 64, P. L. of Pa., 1897, page 83, and is entitled "An Act to provide for the maintenance, care and treatment of the indigent insane in county and local institutions." It provides,

"That any county, municipality, borough or township of this Commonwealth, which now has or may hereafter supply, erect and equip a suitable institution for the maintenance, care and treatment of its indigent insane, upon plans and specifications approved in writing by the Board of Public Charities, shall receive from the State treasury the sum of one dollar and fifty cents per week for every indigent insane person of such county, municipality, borough or township so maintained who has been legally adjudged to be insane and committed to such institution, or who may be transferred from a State Hospital for the insane to such local institution: Provided, that the Board of Public Charities shall be satisfied that the quality and equipment of such institution, and the manner of care and treatment therein fur-

nished is proper and suitable to the class or classes of the indigent insane so maintained, and shall so certify to the Auditor General before any such payment shall be made."

This is the so-called "County Care Act" and its main object is to offer such a strong inducement to the counties and other localities as will lead them to care for some, if not all of their insane *at home*, either in new, modernly appointed County Asylums, such as those of Wisconsin, or in suitable departments, wards or separate buildings at the County Homes. The Act is not loaded with conditions nor troublesome restrictions; any county, city, town or district may readily profit by its offer.

In view of the greatly overcrowded condition of our State Hospitals for the insane, and the evident unwillingness of the Legislature to continue expending uselessly millions of dollars in the erection, equipment and support of such vast structures, it has now become the duty, and under this new law, greatly to the interest and pecuniary advantage of counties, municipalities and other communities, to build new, or to extend existing accommodations, with the view of removing from the State Hospitals any class or classes of their indigent insane that they may be equipped to receive and treat. Our State Hospitals for the Insane would, under this system, contain such of the acute, recent, curable cases as could not be treated to the best advantage in county homes or county asylums, and such violent, dangerous, or feeble chronics as required State Hospital care and treatment. The State Hospitals would continue to care for such criminal insane as the courts might commit thereto, until other separate hospital provision is made; but the great mass of the indigent chronic insane would be removed from the State Hospitals and be economically, properly and profitably cared for in county homes or local asylums. Under this system, it is evident that the county so benefiting would obtain, in what it saved from State Hospital payments (\$1.75) and in what it received directly from the State treasury (\$1.50), the neat sum of \$3 25 per week for each of its indigent insane under local care.

Upon the passage of this new law the Committee on Lunacy drafted and issued a circular letter, together with a special printed report on the Wisconsin system, (submitted by Dr. Wetherill, the secretary), to county commissioners, directors and overseers of the poor of the several counties and districts of the State; to the directors of charities of municipalities, and to others interested, quoting the County Care Act, directing attention to its benefits and advantages, and urging their prompt and harmonious action in its adoption.

The new law has been very favorably received in most of the counties and in the cities of our State, and has attracted attention in New England and in some of the western States, from which we have received numerous letters of inquiry and requests for copies of the Act, special reports, or statistics bearing upon the subject.

Active preparation is being made in many of our counties to receive their insane. The Pittsburg City Farm has added a new wing to its

excellent department for insane men, and recently has considerably relieved the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, at Dixmont, by the removal of 56 patients of both sexes chargeable to the City of Pittsburg. Butler is one of the counties containing neither an almshouse nor a district poor house. Recently it was decided by vote of its citizens to build an almshouse to receive the poor and the insane of the county. The City of Allegheny has completed a separate asylum building on the site of the City Home, at Claremont. Allegheny County is about to erect a similar asylum at the County Home, near Woodville. Elk, which was also one of the counties containing no accommodation for the insane, is to have two separate departments for the insane in connection with a County Home, which is now almost completed.

A separate asylum is being erected upon a site near the Chester county Home. During last summer the Directors of Poor of Adams County having applied to the Board of Public Charities for benefit under the Act were advised by the Committee on Lunacy to make certain changes, additions and improvements in their Asylum building at Gettysburg, for the increased comfort and safety of the patients, and to satisfy the Board that their accommodation and equipment was suitable for the class of the quiet, chronic insane there detained. These improvements have been completed. Similar action was taken on the application of the Directors of Cumberland County, who have completed extensive improvements at the County Home, for the purpose of setting apart a separate building for the care of their quiet, chronic insane.

The Department for Insane of Hillside Farm, at Clark's Summit, Lackawanna County, is now filled to its utmost capacity, and the Directors are considering the subject of its extension by new building.

In Adams, Chester, Carbon, Delaware, Washington, Bradford, Bedford, Bucks, Erie, Elk, Lancaster, Clearfield, Warren, Venango, Tioga, Dauphin, Somerset and Blair Counties, the Directors or Commissioners are making some movement in the direction of county care for the insane. The Wilkes-Barre District is to have a new asylum for the insane on the site of the Home at Retreat.

The Department for insane of the Philadelphia Hospital (Blockley) has had to be enlarged by the addition of a story to the existing two story buildings. This became necessary on account of its overcrowded condition. As this institution is not able to receive any of the Philadelphia insane now in the State Hospital at Norristown, it would be very desirable that all the other Counties of this District should make preparation, under the new Act, to care for as many of their insane as possible, in properly equipped County Asylums, or in wards in their County Homes set apart for that purpose, so as to partially relieve the great and increasing pressure upon the State Hospital at Norristown.

Owing to the extent of its District and to the small number of County Homes in the same, it seems probable that the State Hospital for the Insane at Danville would be the last to feel relief from the new law, un-

less some of its most populous counties, such as Northumberland, Lycoming and Centre, come forward promptly and erect County Homes and Asylums, which it would pay them very well to do.

A fear has been expressed that county care might finally result in an over-depletion of the State Hospitals. This apprehension we feel satisfied is quite groundless. After about eighteen years experience with it in Wisconsin, her State Hospitals have never been reduced in population below their comfortable capacity. At the present rate of increase of 550 new cases each year such result would be impossible. As before stated, there is, in every State hospital a large number of incurable cases, in addition to the acute, which, as a class, would be unsuitable for county care.

One of the most pleasing features of this plan of care is, that it brings an immense body of our indigent insane into their former environment and near to their families and friends. An insane person requiring detention should be as near as possible to those at whose instance he is being detained. In Wisconsin the proximity of the County Asylum to the patient's home favors their frequent visitation and facilitates the parole to their homes of numbers of the chronic insane, who, while in the State Hospitals, might not be visited at all. Distance and isolation reacts unfavorably upon the patient and upon his family.

It is very difficult to manage the parole of the insane from State Hospitals to their often distant homes, and their subsequent return to the institution is surrounded with trouble, expense and often with danger. These considerations have necessarily greatly limited the use of the parole in our State institutions for the insane, with the exception of the State Hospital at Norristown, from which are paroled large numbers of Philadelphia's patients, as soon as their mental and physical improvement renders it safe to do so. Free exercise of the right to parole is of inestimable advantage to the insane and of benefit to the institution. Very many patients improved by hospital treatment are paroled, go home, recover or further improve and stay home, who might not do well, if kept longer in the hospital, and this fact is recognized by all who have medical charge of numbers of the insane. County care offers the largest opportunity for the employment of this benefit, which applies to chronic as well as acute cases, and any movement of the insane which favors their safe and proper retention at their homes and frees them from unnecessary institution detention should be strongly encouraged.

There is now much useless and unnecessarily expensive hospital detention of the insane, merely because they are so remote from their homes that parole, or leave of absence is inconvenient and difficult to manage.

While our new "County Care" Act does not limit any locality as to the "class or classes" of inmates it may care for locally, but makes the condition for benefit under it simply a question of *suitable equipment and proper care*, and, while certain of our large county and municipal

institutions will continue to receive and treat *all classes* of the insane, we feel that it would be desirable that the *acute cases* be treated in the State Hospitals, and do not doubt that this will be the general rule or plan adopted.

Let us now consider exactly what the "County Care" Act of Pennsylvania requires of the several localities designed to be benefited thereby, and what action it imposes upon those whose duty it is to see that its intent is properly carried out. It provides, in the first place, that the county or other locality to be benefited must previously "supply, erect and equip a suitable institution," unless it already has one. What is a suitable institution? This it is impossible to define in a general Act, as a building might be very suitable to the care of one class of patients and fall short of the requirements of another. The Legislature therefore required that the plans and specifications of any such new building shall be approved in writing, by the Board of Public Charities, and further directs that no payment shall be made to any locality until the Board has certified to the Auditor General that the quality and equipment of such institution, whether a new building or one already in use, and the manner of care and treatment therein furnished is proper and suitable to the *class or classes* of insane patients so maintained.

The law is not loaded with restrictions; the Board of Public Charities is familiar with the requirements of the different classes of the indigent insane, both as to buildings and as to suitable quality of care and treatment, and the regulation of these matters rests with it. In a county, municipality, or district desiring to come in under the Act, those in direction should apply in writing to the Board of Public Charities, stating their intention, mentioning what class of the insane, whether chronic, or both acute and chronic patients, they propose to keep; whether they intend to build and equip a separate asylum, or to merely set apart and furnish certain wards for the accommodation of their insane; what number of patients they propose to provide for, and any other details that may inform the Board as to their intention. In case a new building is to be erected, or structural alterations are to be made in an existing building, their plans and specifications must be presented to the Board of Public Charities, and must be approved by it, in writing, before the work is undertaken. The Board refers all such applications to the Committee on Lunacy, and when the latter are able to satisfy the Board that the applicants have furnished suitable quarters and a proper quality of care, the Board so certifies to the Auditor General.

The law does not *require* that a county shall erect an asylum building where an almshouse already stands which is, or can be adapted to the care of the insane; but even in such, it would be preferable wherever possible, for the counties to build detached accommodations and to keep their insane entirely apart from their pauper inmates. Where both these classes are together in the same building, even if kept in separate wards, it is difficult to keep them apart at all times and to en-

sure the insane the better quality of care and treatment which is essential.

The State makes, in this Act, a very liberal offer to the counties and other districts, and reasonably expects the latter to do something in return, by providing good accommodation for their insane, and much better equipment of wards and treatment of insane patients than the pauper inmates usually require and receive. It is a poor plan and bad economy to fix up a ward or two in an almshouse as quarters for insane patients. One of the chief purposes of this law is to relieve the State Hospitals, which can only be accomplished by the counties making large, new and adequate accommodation for all such of their insane as they are able to care for on county sites. The Committee on Lunacy would not favor any attempt to hastily and inadequately fit up almshouse wards merely to enable the Directors of the Poor to obtain \$1.50 per week from the State treasury for insane patients whom they had been for years maintaining as ordinary paupers.

If "County Care" is to be a success and true economy, the average county home management will have to take a broad and serious view of the question, and be prepared to spend money sufficient to furnish proper quarters of such extent as will enable them to take some, if not most of their insane from the State Hospitals, as well as to care for such patients as they already had. County officers should consider that preparation must be made for the future increase of the insane population and not merely for the number now on hand. There are now 552 more patients in the institutions than there were last year, and there is little probability that the future annual increase will fall much below 500. This is an enormous annual increase, and the "County Care" Act was passed for the purpose of meeting and adequately providing for it.

Suppose the Directors of Poor of a county applying to the Board of Public Charities for benefit under the "County Care" Act, should state that the class they propose to receive from their county, and to take from the State Hospital was to consist of the *quiet, chronic insane*, and should ask what conditions as to equipment, care and treatment were essential in order to secure a certificate from the Board of Public Charities to the Auditor General, we would reply :

First. Such style of equipment as to furniture, bedsteads, wire-woven mattresses and bedding as is used in State Hospitals for the Insane, and in our better-equipped county homes.

Second. The employment of suitable, salaried attendants of either sex, in the ratio of one attendant to every twenty patients or less ; such attendants to wear a uniform or distinctive garb while on duty.

Third. Wherever practicable, a separate, brick or stone building or buildings for the insane, to be not more than two-stories in height, of fire-proof or slow-burning construction, and to provide for the absolute separation of the sexes.

When separate building is not possible, then separate wards in the county home set apart and specially equipped for the insane of each

sex, so as to keep the insane entirely apart from the proper inmates at all times.

Fourth. Wherever practicable, the lighting of buildings or wards by electricity or gas. The use of lamps in institutions is very dangerous, and wherever possible should be abandoned.

Fifth. Good, modern plumbing, bath-tubs and appliances; good drainage and abundant water supply.

Sixth. The attending physician to be within telephone call.

Seventh. Iron fire-escapes on outside of buildings, hinged window guards. All exposed radiators, steam-pipes, &c., to be covered with wire-screening.

Eighth. Heating by steam or hot water system. Not by stoves.

Ninth. A night attendant in wards for each sex.

Tenth. Fire-hose and pipe attachments in each ward, always ready for use.

Eleventh. Suitable facilities for out-door exercise of patients, such as enclosed yards, or airing courts.

Twelfth. Adherence to the requirements of the Lunacy Law and its regulations.

These are not unreasonable requirements for the comfort and safety of quiet, chronic insane who would require but little medical treatment.

Where a county intends to care for all classes of its insane, the equipment for the treatment of acute, or probably curable or relievable cases, for helpless chronics and for the refractory would have to be more elaborate, and would necessitate a true hospital standard, such as a resident physician, an increased number of attendants, extra dietary, and in addition, it would be very desirable to have all the patients under the supervision of a female trained nurse, who should be subordinate to the resident physician.

Any quality of equipment and care for this class of the insane inferior to this would infallibly bring county care into deserved disrepute.

It is very important that the Directors of Poor and other officers should understand that the new Act applies to only *one class* of persons, viz: to the *actively insane*, whether acute, sub-acute or chronic, and not to *feeble-minded paupers*. The majority of the population of our county homes are more or less mentally deficient, imbecile, epileptic, cranky, or weak in mind from advanced age. Who are and who are not proper subjects for classification as insane under county care, is a question which county officers may not be able to determine in all cases; but wherever the doubt occurs—whenever the question arises, the Board of Public Charities will have to determine it. The Lunacy Law of 1883, in Section 16, says that *no person* shall be received or detained as insane in any institution unless the two examining physicians shall certify that the mental disease is of a character *which requires* hospital care and treatment. Section 20 of the same requires that the person at whose instance the patient is retained shall sign a paper stating his belief that such hospital attention is *necessary* and is *for the benefit* of the patient. Surely the "County Care" Act was not designed

to apply to persons whom the Lunacy Law would exclude from commitment to an institution. There are many insane citizens, both in almshouses and in the community who do not require to be committed, whose detention is not necessary nor for their benefit. We know a number of pauper inmates of almshouses who are slightly disturbed in mind; have harmless, fixed ideas and notions, but who never were committed because it was unnecessary, and therefore improper. To commit such person now, to take advantage of their condition, so that they may gain the county \$1 50 per week so long as they may live, would be an outrage, and plainly in violation of the Lunacy Law, which says that commitment must be necessary and for the person's benefit.

Again, it must not be taken for granted that because an insane person has been committed either to an hospital or to an almshouse, he must necessarily draw from the State treasury \$1.50 per week for his county for the balance of his life. If at any time he should so improve or change as to render his further detention *unnecessary*, he would have to be discharged, and the payment for him or her would cease. In other words, the operation of the County Care Act will have to be regulated in accordance with the requirements of the Lunacy Law of 1883. And right here, it becomes necessary for us to say to county officers that strict adherence to the provisions of the law just mentioned and rigid adherence to the rules and regulations, and forms of the Committee on Lunacy, will be absolutely essential to their benefiting, or their continuing to benefit by the provisions of the Act of May 25th, 1897. We regret to have to state that some of our counties have been keeping a certain number of their quieter insane in county homes for years past, in utter or partial disregard of the requirements of the Lunacy Law of 1883, and of the rules founded thereon, although our Committee has repeatedly requested them to comply and have, time and again, left in their hands printed copies of the law and the rules. In our pamphlet of rules is plainly set forth certain forms in which returns of admission, discharges, deaths, escapes, &c., of insane patients are required to be made to the Committee on Lunacy. Such reports enable the Committee to keep records of all movement of insane population in institutions, as is required by law, and render it possible for us, at any time to trace the institution history of any individual patient, and to make up an annual statistical report at the close of each year. Now that it seems probable that a very large number of the insane will be cared for in county, or local institutions, it is of the utmost importance that all of these rules in regard to making reports and returns of the insane, individually and collectively, should be observed; otherwise it will be impossible for our Committee to produce an annual report which should show the number, condition and movement of the insane in our State.

If the Directors, Commissioners, or other local officers in charge of the insane hope to benefit by the County Care Act, they must feel prepared to abide by the requirements of the Lunacy Law of 1884, and the regulations of the Committee on Lunacy.

We are glad to be able to say that the number of counties in which these regulations are wholly or in part disregarded is small, but in the future, all will have to comply with these reasonable requirements.

It is gratifying to note the improving quality of care and treatment of the insane in our County Homes. The municipal almshouses and the larger county institutions, in which all classes of patients are received, exhibit results, at the close of the year, which compare favorably with those of *any* public hospital; while a large number of quiet, chronic insane are, as a rule, very suitably and comfortably maintained in the smaller institutions. Old, inconvenient, unsanitary plumbing is being replaced by modern, hygienic pipes and fixtures, and the enameled bath-tub and wash-bowl are taking the place of the old iron or wooden tubs and unsightly sinks. Looking back over a period of only ten years, the changes, alterations, improvements in the condition of many of these institutions are very notable and commendable. There are still some in which the bath-tub is an untidy sink; the closets unsanitary, and the fixtures old-fashioned and out of order; but we feel that, under the stimulus of county care and of continued official admonition, all will be brought up to a good standard.

Mr. McGonnigle: This is a very interesting paper, and it gives an idea of the Wisconsin plan: We would be glad now to have discussion on the paper.

Col. Gould, (Erie): I would like to ask Dr. Wetherill one question: if the county plan as represented by the Wisconsin system is so beneficial why the State has been so dilatory in adopting it, and the Board of Charities so slow in recommending it?

Dr. Wetherill: That is something I cannot answer: It is something I would like to know, also. Why didn't some one outside suggest it? When it occurred to us we acted upon it, but I don't think we ever got a suggestion from outside.

Mr. McGonnigle: I can answer why it wasn't suggested from outside by relating an instance where it was. During the administration in Pittsburg of R. C. Elliott as the Chief of the Department of Public Charities, about 1893, he had passed in the Legislature an Act of Assembly which was substantially the Wisconsin plan, providing that where a poor district established an institution for the care of the insane, which met with the requirements of the Board of Public Charities, that it should receive from the State one-half of the expense of taking care of the in-

mates, and that Act was passed by the Legislature and was before Governor Pattison at the same time the Act was passed for the building of the Wernersville Hospital. Gov. Pattison vetoed it and signed the Wernersville bill, saying that the Board of Public Charities had laid out a "policy," in the building at Wernersville ; that this bill was in contradistinction to that "policy," and he therefore could not sign it. Now there is one case where I know it was called to the attention of the Board of Public Charities. And I do know, further, that this Association—go back over all its reports and you will find it repeatedly, where it has urged that there should be something done with reference to deciding the cost of the taking care of the insane more equally ; so that from this Association the Board of Public Charities have had, from time to time enough hints, I think, and suggestions, that some other policy should be adopted than what was being carried out.

Mr. Woods : Now it seems to me we are all united. If the Board of Public Charities were not in sympathy with what we wanted before, they are in sympathy now. Every speech here this evening is in favor of the Act. They are all in favor of the adoption of the system. We have the Act of 1897, and it has been passed. Whether or not the State Board of Charities wanted it before, it is passed now. The question is now are we going to so act that the Legislature will feel that it is a failure or a success ?

Col. Gould : There are certain things we all recognize ; one is that whenever one is insane the relatives and friends want the very best expert care that can be given to that person, with a hope that he may recover. For that reason we don't want to send them to a county home where they may have a physician who is not thoroughly up to the latest and most advanced theories in regard to the insane, but we want them under the care of experts. Experts whose whole study has been in the treatment of the insane. That is what our State institutions should have. So where it is a recent case of insanity there may be hope of recovery. Now if such an expert has the entire care of the inmates—chronic, idiotic and everything else in the institution and it is overcrowded what attention can he give to these new cases ?

The fault with our State institutions now is that the Superintendent is the chief physician of the institution, and his time is taken up with the business management of the institution ; that is all a mistake. What we want of these expert scientists is to get all we can of the advantage of their knowledge and skill. We have able men at the head of our State institution, but they haven't the time to devote to the care of the insane that is needed. Eight years ago Mr. McGonnigle discussed these same questions and we were both called cranks. But I am glad to see that the general idea has come to be that the chronic insane can just as well and better be cared for in the home institutions and leave the large institutions to care for the acute cases and the recent cases, that need the care and attention of the experts. When you come to the economical part, any county can build an institution and pay for it in ten years, out of the saving of expense.

Mr. O'Neill, (Luzerne) : The first question is whether we can best take care of the insane in the county homes, rather than in the large institutions. We have been in favor of the large institutions because there experts were employed, but many believe that in Pennsylvania the insane haven't been properly taken care of in the large institutions, because as Col. Gould says, the financial responsibility of the whole institution rests on the shoulders of one man, and it is almost impossible for him to take care of the business part of the institution and look after, or know anything about, the particular condition of each inmate, and the experts haven't the opportunity or time to give them proper attention. We may remedy this in the county system ; let us hope we may. If we can get experts enough to take the positions in the 66 counties I think it will result, eventually, in benefit to the insane. Any physician can take care of chronic insane, but there are cases that can be restored, many of them ; and many of them in the large institutions are not benefited for want of care that they ought to receive. I was surprised to hear the question why the Wisconsin plan was not adopted 15 years ago ; every one knows that it would have been if it hadn't been for the antagonism of the State Board of Charities. They have insisted upon legislation, until there was an antagonism aroused against the State Board of Charities, and it is because of that antagonism that we have the

law to-day ; not because the State Board of Charities wanted it, but because the people wanted it. We are now erecting a building that will accommodate three or four hundred insane, and we propose to test it thoroughly. [Applause.]

Mr. McGonnigle : I would suggest that it would be well for some one to offer a resolution covering the point under discussion, and endorsing the Wisconsin plan, for I think we all agree that it is a good plan, and we ought to give it our full endorsement.

Mr. L. C. Colborn offers the following resolution : Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolved, That this Association now in session after hearing fully the objects and benefits that may be expected under the provisions of the Act of Assembly, providing for the various counties of the State caring for their Insane and known as the County Care Act, approved May 27th, 1898.

Therefore resolved, That this Convention most heartily indorse the Act and movement, and would recommend all counties to make provisions for the care of their insane.

Mr. J. W. Barker, (Delaware), offers the following resolution :

Resolved, That this Convention recommend that hereafter delegates attending Conventions furnish and wear badges indicating the District and County they represent.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Upon motion the Convention here adjourned until morning.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, October 26th, 1898.

The Convention was called to order at 9 A. M., by President Seragg, and he called for reports from counties.

Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia), moved that the reports be handed to the Secretary without being read.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Snyder, of the Committee on Resolutions, presents the report of the committee as to three resolutions: As to "Settlement of Paupers," as to "Delegates Wearing Badges," and as to "The Endorsement of the Wisconsin Plan by this Convention," and they are all agreed to.

Resolved, That the Committee on Legislation prepare an Act of Assembly to be presented at the next meeting of the Legislature, making it the duty of the State Board of Charities to determine the Settlement of Paupers, and settle disputes between Poor Districts in relation thereto, in a just and equitable manner. Something after the manner done in the State of New York at present.

Mr. McGonnigle: As to the report of the Committee to attend the Conference of Charities held in New York City, in May last, I want to report that we attended the meeting, and that there were some 1,200 delegates from the States and Canada. The work was divided into sections, so that persons interested in any particular line of work could reach that, without attending the other sessions. The men and women there were the brightest men and women in the charity work in this country. It was a pleasure to be with them, and they recognized this Association, and we thought it was quite to our credit that we were there.

In talking to one of the best and brightest men in the charity work in this country, and perhaps in the world, he says to me: "The Conference of Charities is a fine organization and has worked out many reforms, but I think the membership of your Association is better in many ways than the membership of ours, for this reason, that the men and women in your Association are

the people that every day are taking care of paupers and the insane, and everything of that kind, while the majority of our members have never had that every-day experience; they have taken up the work from scientific standpoints, but your members have had this matter as their every-day work, and know from a practical standpoint the best way to do the work." So we thought that was a very good endorsement, and I believe what he said was true.

Another matter that struck me forcibly was that we had in some instances the entire Board of Public Charities from some of the States; Michigan, Colorado, Tennessee, Kansas, and other States in the far west and south, but there wasn't a man from the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania was noticeable by its absence. Only two hours' ride from the place of meeting, and still they hadn't enthusiasm enough in their work to attend, while others came hundreds and thousands of miles.

President Scragg: I can endorse all that Mr. McGonnigle has said, and it was surprising to me that some of the biggest, brightest men in this country didn't think it beneath their dignity to be there and take part in that Convention. Men like Choate, the lawyer, and the Mayor of Boston. And they are entitled to great respect for their attendance there. I don't think that practically the results of the Convention are greater than of this Association; and I could not but think why the men of standing in this Commonwealth will not give more attention to this work, when such men as Choate, the great lawyer of New York, and the Mayor of Boston, were there and took part.

Mr. Detweiler, Chairman of Committee on Finance and Auditing, submits the following report.

On motion, the report is accepted.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

L. C. COLBORN, TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 25th, 1898.

The Treasurer charges himself with moneys and assessments received
as follows :

1897.		<i>By Cash Received :</i>	
Oct.	13,	Directors of the Poor of Bedford County.....	\$15 00
	13,	Children's Aid Society, Chester County.....	5 00
	25,	Board of Public Charities, Philadelphia.....	20 00
	29,	Trustees of Warren State Hospital.....	15 00
	30,	Directors of Poor, Montgomery County.....	15 00
	30,	Children's Aid Society, Fayette County.....	5 00
	30,	“ “ “ Crawford County.....	5 00
Nov.	1,	Trustees State Hospital, Harrisburg.....	15 00
	1,	Directors of Poor, Beaver County.....	15 00
	1,	“ “ Allegheny County.....	15 00
	1,	“ “ Dauphin County.....	15 00
	5,	Trustees of Deaf and Dumb Institute, Edgewood....	10 00
	6,	“ of Friends' Asylum, Philadelphia.....	5 00
	6,	Directors of Poor, Clearfield County.....	10 00
	6,	“ “ York County.....	15 00
	6,	“ “ Central District, Luzerne County..	15 00
	6,	Trustees House of Refuge, Philadelphia.....	5 00
	10,	Directors of Poor, Lycoming County, Williamsport..	10 00
	10,	“ “ Cambria County.....	15 00
	10,	“ “ New Castle District.....	10 00
	10,	Children's Aid Society, Somerset County.....	5 00
	12,	Directors of Poor, Germantown, Pa.....	15 00
	15,	Department of Charities, Allegheny.....	20 00
	15,	Directors of Poor, Crawford County.....	15 00
	17,	“ “ Berks County.....	15 00
	17,	“ “ Lancaster County.....	15 00
	20,	“ “ Westmoreland County.....	15 00
	23,	Children's Aid Society, Washington County.....	5 00
	24,	Department of Charities, Pittsburgh.....	20 00
	26,	Directors of Poor, Danville and Mahoning District...	10 00
	26,	Children's Aid Society, Elk County.....	5 00
Dec.	1,	“ “ “ Erie County.....	5 00
	1,	“ “ “ Greene County.....	5 00
	1,	Directors of Poor, Delaware County.....	15 00
	6,	Trustees of Reform School, Morgantown.....	10 00
	6,	“ of Feeble-Minded Institute, Elwyn, Pa.....	15 00

Dec. 6,	Directors of Poor, Lebanon County.....	10 00
6,	“ “ Middle Coal-field District.....	10 00
6,	Children's Aid Society, Kittanning, Pa.....	5 00
8,	Directors of Poor, Blair County.....	15 00
11,	Children's Aid Society, of Philadelphia, Pa.....	15 00
13,	Directors of Poor, Erie County..	15 00
18,	Children's Aid Society, Cameron County.....	5 00
18,	Trustees Blind Institute, Pittsburgh.....	5 00
1898.		
Jan. 3,	Directors of Poor of Jenkins and Pittston District....	10 00
18,	“ “ Scranton District.....	15 00
18,	Trustees of Bethesda Home.....	5 00
18,	“ Feeble-Minded Institute, Polk, Pa.....	15 00
31,	Children's Aid Society Auxiliary, Crawford County..	5 00
Feb. 16,	Directors of Poor, Coal Twp. District, Shamokin, Pa..	10 00
26,	Children's Aid Society, Western Pennsylvania.....	10 00
Mar. 12,	Directors of Poor, Greene County.....	15 00
Apr. 20,	“ “ N. Luzerne District.....	5 00
20,	Secretary for organizing Charities of Philadelphia....	5 00
Aug. 29,	Department of Charities, Philadelphia.....	20 00
Sept. 16,	Directors of Poor, Fayette County.....	15 00
16,	“ “ Somerset County.....	10 00
Oct. 25,	“ “ Washington County.....	20 00
		<hr/> \$665 00

The Treasurer claims credit for the following moneys paid out as per receipts approved by the President :

1897.

To Cash Paid Out :

Nov. 1,	To balance paid Treasurer due at last settlement.....	\$17 28
8,	Somerset Herald, Assessments.....	3 00
13,	The Myers & Shinkle Co., Reports.....	150 00
13,	D. S. Brumbaugh, Statistics.....	20 00
13,	Dr. J. W. Walk and L. C. Colborn, Delegates to National Conference at Toronto.....	30 00
Dec. 9,	John F. Scragg, Expenses at Scranton, Pa.....	9 50
13,	The Myers & Shinkle Co., Reports.....	100 00
13,	Ira E. Briggs, Reporting.....	100 00
Jan. 18,	Gertrude Gray, Clerking to Secretary.....	25 00
18,	Ira E. Briggs, Reporting.....	20 00
June 5,	The Myers & Shinkle Co., Reports.....	100 00
July 11,	R. D. McGonnigle, Discounts....	5 50
Aug. 3,	Somerset Herald, Printing.....	5 00
5,	C. W. Walker, Type-writing.....	5 00
Sept. 5,	Catharine Endsley, Postmaster.....	10 00
5,	Programme Committee.....	15 00
10,	Somerset Herald, Printing.....	11 50
20,	R. S. Scull, Type-writing.....	6 00

Oct. 17,	R. D. McGonnigle, Printing, (The Myers & Shinkle Co.)	10 00
24,	L. C. Colborn, Services and Expenses.....	25 00
	Total.....	\$667 78
		<hr/>
Oct. 24,	Balance due Treasurer.....	\$12 78

We the undersigned appointed to audit and settle the accounts of the Treasurer, do certify that we have examined the above and foregoing account of the receipts and expenditures of the Treasurer and find the same to be true and correct.

We would further recommend that the same assessment be laid for the ensuing year as was levied for the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

H. F. DETWILER,
JAMES MOORE,
Committee.

Dr. J. Moorhead Murdock read the following paper on the Institution for Feeble-Minded at Polk.

REPORT FROM THE STATE INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE-MINDED OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, POLK. PA.

The State Institution for Feeble-Minded of Western Pennsylvania has entered upon its second year. Since its doors were opened for the reception of pupils upon April 20th, 1897, it has cared for 554. Of this number 26 have been discharged improved, 8 unimproved, and 24 have died, leaving in the Institution on September 30th, 1898, 496 pupils.

The Institution has now passed through its formative stage; the schools and all departments are organized, and the buildings have proved to be admirably planned for the care, training and treatment of feeble-minded children.

To plead the cause of the imbecile before this assemblage, composed as it is of those who have such frequent dealings with this class would be useless; nor need I tell you that the fanciful delusion which still exists in the mind of the public, that institutions for the feeble-minded are for the cure of idiocy is unfortunately a fallacy. I am not here to tell you that we cure feeble-minded children, or that we make good their mental deficiency. We do not. We can not. The day of miracles has gone by.

What we do and all we can do is to study the possibilities for development in each child, give each child such treatment, medical and hygienic, as will develop his physical system, endeavor by constant watchfulness to break up bad habits, find out the possibilities for mental training, and by giving the child special attention, endeavor

to train him so that he may be of some use in an institution, or in his home, if not in the outside world.

The marked improvement in the appearance of nearly all the children admitted into the Institution, even within a comparatively short time after their admission, is the best evidence of the good accomplished.

The evidence of happiness and awakening intelligence shown by the children cared for being in marked contrast with the condition of the same class of children seen in the outside world. In the feeble-minded the deficiency of mental power is but a symptom, being in the vast majority of cases associated with a feeble constitution, and in order to bring about improvement, carefully regulated physical exercise and hygiene must go hand in hand with education, the physician and teacher working together.

A number of children have drifted into our Institution who were of apparent feeble intellect, but who in reality had normal minds, though undeveloped, owing to one of the avenues of special sense being blocked. These physical defects being removed or remedied, these children have been started on the way to future usefulness.

In our school work instruction commences with the most simple kindergarten exercises, the child receiving much individual instruction. The idea being not to give the child a liberal education, but to fit him to perform, to the best of his ability, some useful service.

During the summer months most of the children are employed upon the farm or garden; the instruction, however, continues through the entire year for those children who are incapable of joining the industrial groups.

The school discipline is thus maintained, and the children prevented from deterioration as these children would do if entirely removed during the summer months from the refining influence of their teachers.

A band of fourteen pieces has been organized, and now furnishes music for our entertainments.

Perhaps no part of the training given to the class of boys cared for in the Institution is of more importance or more potent for good than the military drill. Three companies are drilled daily by our drill master. The discipline, bearing, and quickness of thought developed in this branch of training is very noticeable in the boys who take part.

The calisthenic and gymnastic classes are doing good work for the girls and small boys who do not take part in the military drill. The weak body which as a rule, accompanies a feeble mind, requires physical education; without this it would be useless to attempt to improve the mental condition.

Manual training is an important part of our school work. The interest taken by all the children in wood working is very gratifying. The feeling of pride in having manufactured a useful article stimulates the child to efforts in many other directions.

The work performed by the boys and girls is worthy of mention. Mat and hammock making have been introduced into the Institution, and have proved excellent occupations for a low grade of children.

A large detail of boys under the direction of an outside foreman is employed grading, building roads, walks and drives, and that this labor has been productive, is evidenced in the improved appearance of the grounds surrounding the Institution.

Forty boys have been employed upon the farm and garden, their labor being productive of the greater part of the farm and garden produce required by the Institution.

Two boys find employment in the bake shop, one in the blacksmith shop, six in the power house, four in the carpenter shop, one assists the painter, three are employed in the shoe shop, and six in the tailor shop.

Seventeen girls are employed in the laundry, sixteen in the sewing rooms, and the majority of the remainder when not in school, are occupied with domestic duties.

The Institution is now caring for 496 children, and there are now on file applications for the admission of 116 more ; a total of 612, or twelve more than the capacity of the buildings. Applications are now constantly streaming in, the appeals for admission being in most cases extremely pitiful. Within one year we will in all probability have applications for the admission of at least one hundred more children than we will be able to accommodate.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Institution will soon be provided with a custodial department where the unimprovable and helpless idiot may be cared for apart from the improvable child, leaving the present buildings for the care of those feeble-minded children whose mental condition is susceptible of improvement.

The aid of the members of this Association is solicited in bringing before the members of the Legislature the importance of this addition to our Institution.

I contend that in no other direction does the State accomplish more for the money expended than it does in the care of its feeble-minded children.

The benefit is not alone to the imbecile, but to society at large. Not alone to the present but to future generations. An example will show better than any argument what is accomplished or rather prevented by caring for the imbecile in an institution.

In a certain village an imbecile girl had for some time been supported at public expense. The Overseers of the Poor desiring to relieve the community of the expense, induced a man of feeble mind, though not a pauper, to marry the female imbecile. The township was during the term of office of these shrewd Overseers, relieved of the expense of caring for this girl. However, in due time there were as the result of this marriage three children added to the population of the district, the taxpayers in the end being burdened with the support of five individuals instead of one. I could enumerate many such examples ; this, however, will suffice.

Now if the mother of these children had been sent to an institution for the care of the feeble-minded, there would have been but one indi-

vidual to care for and she in all probability would have been trained so as to largely aid within the institution toward her own support.

Of all classes of degenerates none transmit their infirmities to a greater degree than the imbecile. Where the imbecility is not the result of accident, they may in every case transmit some form of degeneracy to the offspring, the majority of whom will be feeble-minded, while many will be criminals, inebriates, vagrants or prostitutes.

Another benefit derived by society at large by caring for the feeble-minded in an institution is the lessening of crime of all sorts; I am not prepared to give statistics, it is, however, well known that a large number of criminals, inebriates and prostitutes are imbecile or the progeny of feeble-minded parents.

The humane aspect of the question: The rights of the imbecile are deserving of consideration. These unfortunates, brought into the world without voice in the matter, totally irresponsible for their condition, are human, and have rights which we are morally bound to extend to them.

In an institution we protect the imbecile from the ridicule and feeling of inferiority to which he is constantly subjected in the outside world.

In the institution he is on an equality with his associates; suitable occupation and simple forms of amusement are provided for him and he lives a happy existence. He is saved from temptations which he has not strength to resist, and from forming marriages the responsibilities of which he can have no conception.

I have already occupied too much of your valuable time; I will close extending to all a cordial invitation to visit the State Institution for Feeble-Minded of Western Pennsylvania at Polk. It is so much more satisfactory to see than to hear that I wish you could all see the work being carried on there. I am confident that after visiting the Institution you would aid in every way within your power to see that provision is made for the care and training within an institution of every feeble-minded child within the State of Pennsylvania.

J. MOORHEAD MURDOCH,
Superintendent.

The following paper by Cadwalader Biddle, General Agent Board of Charities, "The General Outlook of the Charities of the State," who was prevented from attending the meeting by pressing business, was handed to the Secretary by President Scragg, for publication in the Report of Proceedings:

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK OF THE CHARITIES OF THE STATE AND THE ULTIMATE RESULTS OF OUR SYSTEM OF WORK, AND HOW IT MAY BE IMPROVED.

It is now 35 years since the first Board of Charities was established in this country. To the Commonwealth of Massachusetts belongs the honor of creating this Board, delegating thereto the authority to investigate and supervise the whole system of the public charitable and correctional institutions of that State. New York and Ohio, in the year 1867, passed Acts somewhat similar, and on April 24th, 1869, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted a law creating a State Board of Public Charities. The good effects resulting from the establishment of these Boards were so apparent, that other States soon created similar Boards, so that they now exist in all the most important States of the Union. While the general scope of the Acts establishing these Boards was the same, they differed in many particulars. Some of them confined their jurisdiction to purely State institutions. Others again limited their operation to charitable as distinguished from correctional institutions. In some cases executive authority was granted the Boards, while in others their powers were purely advisory. They all, however, aimed to secure the best administration of their respective institutions in the several States.

The Act creating the Pennsylvania Board gave it no executive power but supervisory powers of the widest scope, embracing all institutions, both public and private, dealing with crime, pauperism, disease or insanity. Grave responsibilities were imposed upon the Board. The commissioners, ten in number, were to be appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. The actual traveling expenses incurred by the members of the Board in the discharge of their duties were to be paid by the State, but no salary or emolument was attached to the office. The Act aimed to secure the services of men of influence who would be actuated by no desire for private gain, but by motives of pure philanthropy. The commissioners were required to elect a General Agent and Secretary, who was to be ex officio a member of the Board. The field was a large one, and much labor was entailed on the Board and its Secretary. Each year all the State institutions, together with the county jails and poor houses, had to be visited and inspected, and a report thereon made to the Legislature. The Act provided, also, that all institutions intending to apply for State aid should notify this Board of such intention, and made it the duty of the Board to inquire carefully into the grounds of such request, the purpose for which the aid was asked, and the amount required, and to present to the Legislature a report embodying the conclusions resulting from such inquiries. Under the Act, no jails or almshouses could be erected until the plans and specifications therefor had been submitted to the Board and received its approval. The general provisions of the Act have not been materially modified, although the Act creating the Committee on

Lunacy of the Board, which was passed in 1883, gave the Board large administrative powers over all institutions caring for the insane.

What chiefly led to the creation of this Board in Pennsylvania, was the indignation of the public aroused by the oft-repeated charges of mismanagement and ill treatment of inmates made against institutions under State and County care. The Governor of the State had appointed, under a resolution passed by the Legislature, a commissioner to visit for philanthropic purposes the prisons and almshouses of the State, and report to him thereon. Mr. Mahlon H. Dickinson, now and for many years the President of the Board of Public Charities, was selected for this position. The report which he made to the Governor, and which was transmitted to the Legislature, produced a decided effect. Mr. Dickinson found little worthy of commendation, and condemnation differing only in degree was meted out to all concerned. Institutions badly planned and constructed and inefficiently administered existed everywhere. Abuses were the rule and not the exception. Thirty years have ensued since the passage of this Act, and it is only just to give this Board some credit for what now exists. To-day our institutions will compare favorably with any in the civilized world. Our county homes are, for the most part, creditable to those conducting them. Here and there are to be found such as are not deserving of commendation, but they are the exceptions. Our county jails are far better than they formerly were, but still admit of great improvement. The hospitals and homes, however, are fully equal to the best existing elsewhere. Pennsylvania has no reason to blush for the manner in which it provides for the dependents of all classes. She has ever been foremost in her philanthropic work, and to-day shows no abatement in her zeal in that direction.

Mr. Letchworth, for many years President of the Board of Public Charities of the State of New York, has stated in a pamphlet concerning charities, "The Commissioners should be persons of high character, of keen observation, of good judgment, with large and successful experience in their professions and in business affairs, and such as have the esteem and confidence of the communities in which they reside. Professor Chace has well said: 'They should be such men as are willing to spend and be spent in the service, with no other reward than the good they hope to accomplish—men who are sought for the service on account of their fitness for it, and not those who seek it for personal ends, or are appointed to it as a reward for political service or through favoritism.' " We have not and never will in this world reach a Utopia. Human minds are so constituted that there never will be perfect accord as to the best system of conducting charitable work. When we consider the great differences which exist as to the true religious faith and methods used to extend that faith throughout the world, it is not to be wondered at that there should be like differences as to the best methods of forwarding charitable work. But we claim that, when great improvements have been and are being made, we are not far wrong in the channel through which so much is effected. It would not be wise to

cast aside that which has proved itself to be efficient to embark on new and untried methods of doubtful expediency. In a State like Pennsylvania, with so many and such varied institutions, treating such a variety of phases of dependency, no one Board or set of men could have time to extend executive control over any one institution. Such Boards must be purely advisory. Each institution is in itself sufficient to tax the thought and care of many managers devoted to its interests.

It has been suggested that it might be well to establish a Department of Charities in place of a Board. I can see no benefit to be derived from this, but many great disadvantages. It would necessarily be political in its character. With each new administration the executive head would be changed, and the valuable experience which only time can give would be lost to the State and its institutions. "Hold fast to that which is good" seems to me to be peculiarly applicable to charitable work.

I have said that Pennsylvania has no reason to blush for the manner in which it provides for the dependents of all classes. It is no less true that she has reason to be proud of the character of those that compose the Boards of Managers of her institutions. They are the peers of any to be found elsewhere. They devote their time without stint to the good of the institutions committed to their charge. They give to their work their best time and attention. They serve without reward, and are entitled to receive the thanks of the public. Criticism they invite, but they have a right to be credited with an honest desire to promote the welfare of their institutions.

I have felt it a privilege and an honor as a Pennsylvanian to say in the National Conference of Charities and Correction, that no matter what might be the case in other States, in Pennsylvania, politics has found no place in its institutions. Faithful men have been appointed and re-appointed to the Boards of its several institutions, and I confidently affirm that no Superintendent of a State Institution in Pennsylvania has been elected to his position because of his political affiliations. It need hardly be said that the very many private institutions of the Commonwealth are entirely free from political domination.

Gentlemen, in closing these remarks, which I have made brief in order not to tax your already well occupied time, I invite your scrutiny into the acts of the State Board of Public Charities. It has been the duty of most of you to look after institutions providing for the poor of your respective districts. It has been the pleasure of our Board to aid you in your efforts. Owing to the constant improvement which has taken place in your institutions, our Board has been much more frequently called upon to praise than to condemn, and I feel that I can with confidence ask you if we as a Board have not aided you rather than hindered you in your efforts on behalf of your institutions.

The Committee to fix time and place for holding the next Convention submit the following report :

NEXT MEETING.

We the undersigned Committee appointed to fix time and place for holding the Twenty-fifth Annual State Convention, met and performed our duties and recommend Erie, Pa., as the place, and the time the second Tuesday of October, 1899.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS TISCH,
P. H. BRIDENBAUGH,
WM. H. EVANS,
J. C. LYME,
JOHN H. OSBORN,

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 25, 1898.

Committee.

Mr. McGonnigle : The Annual Convention of the County Commissioners of the State will be held in Erie at a date to be fixed by the Committee that they have appointed, and a number have spoken to me of the advisability of having our meeting at Erie at the same time, and leave the date of our meeting open, to be arranged by our committee hereafter. It strikes me as a wise plan, because every county in the State will have their Commissioners there. I know that meeting with the County Commissioners will do the members of this Association much good, and I would move that this report be changed, that Erie be the place, the time to be fixed by the Executive Committee to confer with the proper authorities and arrange it to have joint meeting of the County Commissioners and this Association—and then arrange to have a separate meeting place for the Directors of the Poor and a separate meeting for the County Commissioners.

Mr. Snyder : I think it would be well, when the notices are sent out, to send to each district and not have it changed. The notice I got this year we were to meet here October 11th : it was only by accident I discovered it had been changed to the 25th. And I telegraphed to Mr. Colborn and he answered it had been changed.

President Scragg : Mr. Colborn was very careful about sending out the notices.

Mr. McGonnigle : The day was fixed October 11th, and letter after letter came in asking that the date be changed : that the

great Conclave of Knights Templar at Pittsburgh was the 11th, and that they wanted to go to that. So we had to change it if we had any meeting at all. And when the circulars were sent out they stated that the date was changed on account of the Knights Templar Conclave.

We didn't then know anything about this great Peace Jubilee at Philadelphia. If we had we wouldn't have had it at this time. So perhaps it is better to leave the date blank.

Mr. Smith, (Crawford): I represent Crawford County as a Commissioner and a Director of the Poor also. I think we can give you a good time at Erie. But when they come I would suggest that the sessions be made not two days, but four or five days.

President Scragg: That is left to the Executive Committee. That is a suggestion they will undoubtedly take into consideration. And they will fix the date of the meeting.

Mr. Moore, (Cambria): I think the date should not be in September. The Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic meets in September. There are a great many of the Grand Army men Directors here.

President Scragg: That will undoubtedly be taken into consideration, also, by the Executive Committee.

The motion of Mr. McGonnigle is accepted by Mr. Tisch, chairman of the committee on place and time of meeting, and the report as amended is agreed to.

Mrs. F. B. Reed, of Clearfield, here read the following paper :

WORK OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: When asked to present a report of the work of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania to this Convention, the words of one of our members at a recent meeting came forcibly to my mind. She said "the work of the Children's Aid Society can never *be* reported," and I realize the truth of this statement to-day as I never did before. True, I can furnish you with a statistical report, can tell you that since our organization ten years ago our Society has cared for 2,689 children, that we have *to-day* in free homes 716, in institutions and hospitals 121, and in boarding

63, making a grand total of 900. Of these 359 have been received during the past year, 98 coming to us from Almshouses or Directors of the Poor, and 261 from other sources. For the care of these 900 children, we have had an appropriation of four thousand dollars, \$4.44 *per capita*. I need scarcely add that our Society has, with one exception, *no paid officers*. I can tell you, too, something of the work required to accomplish these results: of our Executive Committee meeting twelve times during the year in our Pittsburgh office; of our Board meetings held there quarterly, at which every one of our twenty-five counties has had a representative; of the *hundreds* of visits made to and for the children. These are *some* of our figures, but—could I take you with me to the so-called homes from which so many of these children come to us, the depths of the degradation of which can never be fathomed, and then to the comfortable temporary or boarding home, where the first acquaintance with a *bed* or any of the ordinary necessities of life has been made; see the little wizened faces begin to put on the cheerful, natural look of happy childhood, and still farther to the *real homes* where many of the children are to-day enjoying all the blessings that cluster around that name, legally adopted and taken forever out of the wretched class to which they were born—could we *see* these things I think we might begin to appreciate these figures. For *this is our work*, this is our plan: we take the poor, neglected children, become so from whatever cause, and place them in temporary homes paying from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week until we can find *good*, permanent homes in which we try to have them adopted. Nor are these all: in the Institutions for the Blind, the Deaf and the Mute, we have children being taught to care for themselves and life is being made a blessing, instead of a curse by reason of their affliction, and in the Schools for Feeble-Minded, the Homes for Epileptics, you will find them, and alas! in the Reformatories are some, who too long have been surrounded only by the evil in the world and whose only hope seems to be in the strict discipline, coupled with the instruction of all kinds found in these institutions. We have also our own "Industrial Homes" for girls, recently opened at Indiana, of which you have already heard. And yet another phase of our work is the placing in Hospitals of such as are in need of medical aid, and we rejoice to-day in the knowledge of many an unlovely disease cured, of little limbs straightened, making their owners like "other folks."

Through the agencies of the pulpit, press, Hospitals and charitable organizations generally we are becoming better known and our work better understood. We thank you for this opportunity of coming before the Poor Boards and hope that every director attending this Convention will take with him to his home clearer ideas of our methods and objects. We want your co-operation. *You need* our help. I wish we could so present our work that all of the children committed to your care would be turned over to the Children's Aid Society, the Directors paying board bills while in temporary homes. This is being done in many counties. We believe this is pre-eminently *woman's work*. We

hear so much in this age of progress, of woman's reaching after *place* in the realms hitherto occupied by men, so much adverse criticism on the "new woman," but this is work in her own sphere and men *cannot* compete. We commend our work once more to the care of our great Commonwealth, believing that in the mere matter of dollars and cents she can make no better investment than in caring for her dependent children.

There is a case on record in New York State of a notorious woman whose descendants carefully traced through four generations number over twelve hundred, and are almost without exceptions criminals, paupers or imbeciles, costing that State thousands of dollars for their support. It is the record of *one* neglected girl. Says Dr. Williams, of Baltimore, in a recent article on "Crime, its Increase and Control :"

"Fully one-half the crimes are committed by young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years. We are convinced from a careful study of this subject that more must be done for children."

May we not hope that our Legislators, so soon to meet in this city, will realize the truthfulness of these words !

Mr. McGonnigle : We were to have Mr. Powderly with us. He was in the city Monday evening but had to go to Washington on pressing business. He is not here, and I make this apology for his not appearing.

The Committee on Officers for the following year submits the following report :

President :

John M. Groff.....Lancaster

Vice-Presidents :

Louis Tisch.....Wilkes-Barre

Mrs. Roger Sherman.....Titusville

M. Shumaker.....Somerset

William M. Brown.....Erie

Samuel Wickersham.....Chester

P. H. Bridenbaugh.....Blair

Secretary :

Wm. P. Hunker.....Allegheny

Corresponding Secretary :

L. C. Colborn.....Somerset

Honorary Corresponding Secretary :

R. D. McGonnigle.....Pittsburgh

Treasurer :

George W. Beemer.....Lackawanna

Chairman of Committee on Officers: The Committee had Mr. McGonnigle for Corresponding Secretary but he informs us that he is likely to be called away for a long time, and we feel that for the great service he has rendered this Association that we should at least recommend him as Honorary Corresponding Secretary, and we would recommend Mr. George Beemer of Lackawanna as Treasurer, and Mr. L. C. Colborn as Corresponding Secretary and Wm. P. Hunker of Allegheny as Secretary.

On motion the report of the Committee on Officers as amended is agreed to.

Mr. McGonnigle: I appreciate very much the courtesy paid me by the Committee. It is a fact I have been Corresponding Secretary of this Association for twenty-four years and it is a fact that it has at times very seriously inconvenienced me to attend these meetings. To-day I ought to be at home.

I want to assure you that the fact of not being Corresponding Secretary will not lessen my interest in the work of the Association. The position that the Committee has given me, of Honorary Secretary I appreciate very much, and I shall continue to take the same interest in the Association that I have formerly, and to assist you in every way that I can.

Mr. Butler: In reference to our worthy Corresponding Secretary, who might be called the father of this Association, and who to-day would have been enthusiastically recommended by the Committee as Corresponding Secretary had he not declined—we trust he will ever be with us; and we all hope that wherever he goes God will bless him. We all know that we never had in Pennsylvania a more earnest worker in the cause of charity, and I move that this Association tender to him, for his twenty-four years' services, a vote of thanks.

President Scragg: I think that is a very timely suggestion.

Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia): I attended these Association meetings when there were but a handful of us. Mr. McGonnigle is an old friend of mine and I have always stood by him and he has been one of the faithful members of the Association. He

has always worked hard, and I will say for him that in any communication you ever address to him you always get a response faithfully: and at this time I think if any man in this Association deserves a vote of thanks he does, for bringing it to the standard it now occupies, recognized throughout all the States. I think the least we can do is to tender him a vote of thanks, and I would suggest a rising vote.

President Scragg: We all endorse the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously by a rising vote.

President Scragg: It has been customary to have the Association appoint delegates to attend the National Conference of Charities. It will be held in Ohio.

Mr. McGonnigle: I move that the incoming President be authorized to appoint a committee of two to attend the Conference of Charities to be held at Cincinnati, Ohio, in May next, and also that he shall appoint the Committee on Program.

The motion of Mr. McGonnigle is agreed to.

President Scragg: I see that Dr. Walk is here. He is down for a paper, and he is always interesting. What is your desire?

Upon motion that Dr. Walk proceed, he proceeded as follows:

DR. WALK.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I will detain you but a few minutes, because certain events, that have occurred since I came here, have made it seem best that I should not present, in its entirety, the paper which I had prepared.

Those of you who were at the meeting in Scranton last year may recollect that in my address as President of the Association I called attention to the very rapid increase in the appropriations made by the State Legislature to institutions that were not under State control; particularly hospitals, that are owned and controlled by benevolent corporations, not by the State. I then said I believed the time had come when there should be some regulation of that kind of expenditure of public money, and that it should be so regulated that the Directors of the Poor of each district could send to the State-aided hospitals a part of the persons whom they must now maintain in the infirmaries of the county homes or almshouses.

The gist of my proposition was contained in a single sentence, which I will quote : " I believe it to be the duty of this Association, representing men and women who are legally in charge of the poor of the State, to protect the funds of the people devoted to the poor, and my suggestion is that this Association should prepare and introduce a bill which shall provide that before the State Treasurer pays the quarterly installments of the State money to any hospital, that hospital shall forward to the Auditor General, in addition to the accounts of receipts and expenditures, a certificate from the poor authorities of the proper district that there has been treated in that hospital a number of indigent patients for a time equal in days to the number of dollars in that quarterly payment." That whole subject was referred to the Committee on Legislation. You know it is impracticable for us to get the members of this Committee together except at our annual meetings, and so I have had no chance to consult with that Committee until I came to Harrisburg this week. The events that have occurred during the present year have made this an unsuitable time for pressing this subject to a conclusion.

Last evening I presented a resolution which had the endorsement of the Committee on Legislation, through its chairman, Col. Gould, taking the position that hospitals receiving State money should get it in proportion to the amount of free work which they do for poor people : that seems so obviously right that I think there can be no objection to it. The hospital that treats the most poor people free, should have the most State money, and the one that does the least of such work, the least State money, and the one that does none of it, none of the State money.

Now, it has seemed to others as well as myself that this is all the action which it is desirable to take at this time in regard to this important question. And the chief reason for that conclusion is that our hospitals in Pennsylvania to-day occupy a very peculiar position. Since our last session the war has come and gone, and the hospitals of Pennsylvania have thrown open their doors for the returning soldiers to a wonderful extent, and in the hospitals of my city alone, there were on a certain day recently 1,500 soldiers under treatment. They have merited and have received the gratitude of the people for taking in these soldiers, and in many instances it has been done, I have no doubt, from the most patriotic motives.

This time is not opportune, perhaps, for the legislation which must sooner or later come, in regard to this matter and I will not read the paper that I had prepared, in which I intended to lay down a plan by which these State-aided hospitals could to a greater degree relieve the Directors of the Poor of the counties of the sick and injured poor. I hope, at some time in the future, this plan can be brought before this Association and before the Legislature. The very fact that the hospitals have taken in so many soldiers has one or two very important bearings. In the first place, if in one city 1,500 soldiers were in the hospitals on a certain date in addition to their other patients, it shows that they must

have a large amount of bed capacity which in ordinary times is not used. I know that in some cases the laundry and clinic rooms were taken and furnished with cots; but if 1,500 people can be put in these institutions on an emergency, then in ordinary times there must be a great deal of accommodation that is not fully used, and it is a question whether the State should go on providing further accommodations. There ought to be no question of the State building more hospitals, if there is a large amount of room now unused. Should not this room be filled up by the poor people who may be crowded in the county institutions, or where we may not have proper accommodations for them?

The second thought suggested is this: Many of these hospitals will, no doubt, ask for State money on the ground that they have taken care of the State soldiers. I have no objection to that; I believe if the money is paid by the State to the hospitals, the United States Government will reimburse the State for this outlay, and it is right to reimburse the hospitals; but it should be done on a fair and uniform plan. If one of these hospitals asks for \$200,000 and another for \$50,000 and another for \$10,000 and it is a mere accident which gets the most, is that fair, or just, or patriotic, or wise? Should there not be a definite plan, by which they all can be paid equitably?

It seems to me that we ought to influence our members of the Legislature, to deal with this matter in something like the following way: An appropriation should be made of so much per day for each Pennsylvania soldier, who has been cared for in any hospital of Pennsylvania—if there have been 100 soldiers taken into any hospital and each of them has been taken care of ten days at a dollar a day, that would be one thousand dollars. I do not insist on this particular rate; but there should be some uniform plan, and unless some such general appropriation is made, I am entirely sure that, when the legislative session has closed, you will find that some hospitals have received a large amount of money, and others, which have taken in just as many soldiers, have received a small amount, or none at all.

I plead for a judicious and uniform plan. I trust that the time will come—though it seems far off—when these hospitals, that receive so much from the State, will work in hearty co-operation with us: when they will help us to take care of the indigent sick of the various counties and cheerfully admit to their wards the poor people, who are recommended to them by the authorities of each district. It is the public money, after all, which is at the basis of this care and we have a right to insist that it should be spent upon those who are legitimate public dependents.

Mr. McGonnigle: I think this about concludes the papers and addresses that we have on the program. There are one or two that will be printed in the proceedings. Mr. Biddle, of Philadelphia, is detained at home by sickness, and could not be here. It seems to me we are about at the end of our program.

Mr. Ed. E. Long, (Montgomery): I had a paper, but I was detained by business and it was impossible for me to come here until last evening. And Mrs. Reed, of Indiana County, had practically the same subject I had. No opportunity was given to discuss her paper, and the same is true of Dr. Walk's discussion this morning.

President Scragg: I called the attention of the Association to the fact that they might discuss the papers, after Mrs. Reed's paper was read. But we would like to hear from you.

Mr. Long: With reference to the children, and the care that the Directors of the Poor have over dependent children, it seems to me a very important subject, and it seems to me that the work of the Children's Aid Society ought to receive the closest attention of the Directors of the Poor.

The inception of the Children's Aid Society was in consequence of the Act of 1883, which provided that children between the ages of 2 and 16 years should not be kept in the almshouses.

Now what was to be done with them? It was a very serious question, and it seems to me that the people of this Commonwealth can thank God for the idea that seized the mind of someone to incorporate and organize the Children's Aid Society, with true, loyal women at the head of it. [Applause.]

I don't know whether Mrs. Reed stated the object of the Society fully, or not, but in the paper which I had prepared, and which I will give to the Secretary, I have specified briefly the objects.

President Scragg: You better read your paper.

THE RIGHTS OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention: The Committee in assigning this topic to me did not indicate how they desired to have the subject treated, but I presume they wish me to dwell only upon the rights of such dependent children as come under the charge of the Directors of the Poor. The laws of our State point out the duties of the Directors, and define the rights of the children.

The Act of Assembly passed June 11th, 1879, (P. L. 142), provides that "whenever the parents or proper guardian of any infant unable to support itself, have been convicted of cruelty to said child, or are dead

or cannot be found, and there is no other person legally responsible for the maintenance and support of such child willing to assume such support, or to be found within the county, any magistrate or court of record of the county in which such child may be found may commit such child to the care and custody of the guardians of the poor of said county." And the Act of June 13, 1883, (P. L. 111), provides in Section 1, "It shall not be lawful for the overseers or guardians or directors of the poor in the several counties, cities, boroughs and townships of this Commonwealth to receive into, or retain in any almshouse or poor house any child between two and sixteen years of age for a longer time than sixty days, unless such child be an unteachable idiot, an epileptic or a paralytic, or otherwise so disabled or deformed as to render it incapable of labor or service."

"Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the said overseers or other persons having charge of the poor, to place all pauper children who are in their charge, and who are over two years of age, (with the exception named in the first section of this Act), in some respectable family in this State or in some educational institution or home for children, and one of the said officers shall visit such children, in person or by agent, not less than once every six months, and make all needful inquiries as to their treatment and welfare, and shall report thereon to the Board of overseers or other officers charged with the care of such children."

"Sec. 3. It shall be lawful for any county or two or more counties in this Commonwealth acting together, to establish and maintain an industrial home for the care and training of children, but such institution or home shall be remote from any almshouse or poor house, and entirely disconnected from the same, and under separate management from the keeper of the poor house."

To carry out the provision in the Act of 1883, requiring the placing of all pauper children in some respectable family, Children's Aid Societies have been formed throughout the State having for their objects:

1. The permanent removal of destitute children from pauperizing influences.
2. To prevent the needless separation of mothers from their offspring, legitimate or otherwise.
3. The removal of all children over two years of age in almshouses throughout the State into respectable private homes.

Briefly then, under the laws of Pennsylvania, the rights of dependent, helpless children who have become a public charge are to be committed to the care of the Directors or Overseers of the Poor, whose duty it is to find suitable homes for them outside of the almshouses. This has always been a care to the officials, and very often has been done in a discreditable manner. Many children have been bound out or indentured to persons who have treated them like slaves, and their masters have been veritable slave-drivers, causing the children to suffer abuses and cruel treatment that have brought maledictions upon the heads of well-meaning but careless and inefficient directors who have permitted the abuse by want of proper care in selecting masters, or who have totally neglected to see any further into the welfare of the child-

ren after they have been bound over to their masters. These evils have been much complained of under the old system of apprenticeship or binding out of children. This system is still a lawful way of finding permanent homes for children, and is a good one if the provisions in the Act of 1883 is carried out, that one of the directors "shall visit such children, in person or by agent, not less than once every six months, and make all needful inquiries as to their treatment and welfare."

It was a grand idea, however, that resulted in the formation of Children's Aid Societies throughout the State. These societies have enlisted in the cause many noble, self-sacrificing women with kind, motherly hearts, who take these waifs from the Directors of the Poor and give them all the warm love and care of mothers. They personally see that the children are placed in good, Christian homes, provide clothing if needed, and will consent to their being bound out or adopted only after a trial, and most careful investigation of the character of those wishing to take the children. Dependent children are entitled to this care, and let us thank God that throughout this grand old Commonwealth there are noble women banded together to see that the abuses of the old system no longer exist, and that no matter how unfortunate children may be, they will receive ample protection and care, and be started out on the road leading to honorable womanhood and manhood. I believe there are many children now who when grown and respected will be prompted to say, "I owe all I am to the Christian kindness of the ladies of the Children's Aid Society, who gave me the right kind of a start."

It is, however, impossible in many cases to find suitable homes for dependent children in private families. This is particularly difficult in large cities and populous counties and districts. Children who are deserted and neglected by their parents or those liable for their support are brought to the poor authorities in large numbers, and few people are found who are willing to take these dirty, neglected waifs into their homes. The only course open for directors is to place these children in some Home for Friendless children, or in an "industrial home for the care and training of children," as provided for in Section 3, of the Act of 1883. These children have a right to be placed in such a home if private homes cannot be obtained for them, and I believe it a grand thing that such homes have been established. I have seen children in these homes, some were little tots not more than three or four years old, playing with dolls, and yet at regular hours busy working in kindergarten schools, clean, well cared for and happy, and as they grow up obtaining an education, a good trade, and the best moral and religious training. These poor, deserted, neglected outcasts of a few years ago are, when discharged from these homes, prepared to be useful members of society. It is the right of dependent children to have these opportunities, and it is the duty of the poor authorities to see that they get their rights. Let it be impressed upon every director and guardian of the poor, that it is highly important for them to look carefully after poor children. See that they are given a good home and the right start

in life. Your duty is not alone to keep paupers, but also to endeavor to prevent pauperism by placing poor children beyond pauperizing influences. Open your hearts and bend your energies in this direction, and the results will be a rich reward for faithful services done in the elevation of immortal souls.

Mr. Long said further: I think the directors ought to constitute the women of these societies their regular agents to look after the children; they can do it so much better than you can as directors.

There is another matter: In populous cities like Philadelphia, and Allegheny and Pittsburgh, and in counties like Dauphin and Montgomery, it is a difficult matter to get suitable homes for these children, and what ought we to do? I was very much impressed in a visit to a Home for Friendless Children, under the superintendence of Miss Walk, the sister of Dr. Walk, and seeing the care that the children received there. I have seen little tots there, four or five years old, playing with their dolls, and yet at regular hours they have kindergarten exercises, and they go on until they are learning useful occupations and get a good situation, and when they go into the world at 16 or 18 years of age they have a good foundation, and when they are grown up and are respected by the people they will say, "I owe everything I am to this Institution."

If one institution is doing such work we cannot have too many of them, and I advocate, for one, if we cannot get these children into private homes as fast as we ought to, to try to get them into these homes for children.

Mrs. Reed, (Clearfield): I want to thank Mr. Long for his words. And I would like to know if it is in place to have an expression from the Directors present here, in regard to pursuing the plan of giving the children into the hands of the Children's Aid Society. I would like to take a report to our Directors of the counties who are placing their children into the hands of the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Smith: We do practically let the Children's Aid Society take care of a good many children. But we have a couple of children that we cannot find any place for, and cannot take proper

care of in our home. Now where can we find a place for them? One boy cannot sit up, and we have to tie him in a chair, and when we lay him in bed we find him in the same position in the morning as we placed him.

President Scragg: Do your children come between the ages of 2 and 16?

Mr. Smith: Yes.

Mr. McGonnigle: Following what Mr. Long said, in which I agree largely—there is a little history about the care of children in this State that probably everyone in this Association doesn't know. Going back to the early days of the Association, in 1876, one of the matters that puzzled the Directors of the Poor was, "What are we to do with the children in the Poor House?" And so we went along for several years, and when we met in Somerset in 1882 there was a little woman came up from Philadelphia, Mrs. Punchon, from the Children's Aid Society, of Philadelphia, and it fell like a clap of thunder from a clear sky when she says: "We will take all the children you have in the almshouses if you will pay us about what it costs to keep them in the almshouses."

It was a revelation to us, and right there and then Mrs. Punchon arranged to take care of a number of children, and then we appointed a committee to prepare a law, and that is the Children's Law of 1883, that was passed through the influence of this Association, by a committee appointed by this Association, and that law contemplated not only placing children in homes and families, which is the New York law, but also the Industrial School to which Mr. Long referred, the Ohio law, so Pennsylvania now has the advantage of the laws of Ohio and New York. So looking back we see what a great work we have done.

Now it is not a problem at all, what we are going to do with the children. The women are ready and willing, and the homes are ready for the children: it is simply a matter of taking advantage of these good laws and of the good work of these good women. We have been working up to this for twenty-five years.

Another thought: In California in going through the immense orange groves at Riverside and among millions and millions of oranges, every here and there you will see one bright blood orange standing out in golden colors, far better and bigger than other oranges, and you wonder why it is, and it all comes from the fact that the bees in gathering their food from the beautiful flowers carry on their feet or wings some of the pollen of the roses and other flowers of brilliant colors and deposit it on the orange; and so it grows out stronger and better than the others. And the thought occurs to me that the work of this Children's Aid Society and this Association is like the bee: they bring out a spot here and there; letting the common stand as it is, and bring out a bright spot here and a bright spot there; a good child here, a good woman there. Bringing them out as the bees bring out the oranges in California. Take that thought home with you. I think it will do you all good. [Applause.]

A Member: Beaver County has been giving their children to the Ladies' Aid Society. They pay them \$1.60 a week each for taking care of them.

Mr. Detwiler: Fayette County does the same.

Mr. Peck: Somerset County has a Children's Aid Society, and they relieve us of all the care of the children. They see to their wants, and they present their bills and we pay them, and I can't see how under the sun we could get along without the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Tisch: The City of Wilkes-Barre does better: we have a number of societies that take care of the children, and present no bills.

Mr. L. C. Colborn: The other day we listened to a very interesting paper from Mrs. Willard, of Indiana. She has been one of the organizers of the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania, and no one has done their work better than Mrs. Willard.

Through their Society they saw the need of something else. The Children's Aid Society was not sufficient to care for all classes, and last year they opened an Industrial School for way-

ward girls. That, to my own knowledge, is a great success and doing great work for the children that have been placed in their care. You heard her report yesterday, and I believe that the members of this Association, at least from Western Pennsylvania, should give it their best support, and I would move that the Association endorse the work of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania in opening this Industrial School for wayward girls.

The motion of Mr. Colborn is agreed to.

Mrs. Willard, (Indiana): If there are any Directors of the Poor who want to know anything about our Industrial School I will answer any questions.

Dr. Walk: I would say that our Department of Charities and Corrections is continuing to use the facilities for caring for children, as it has for a number of years. The number of healthy dependent children between 2 and 16 years of age is not increasing, in our care. We have given to the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania a large number of them. The rest of them we have placed in certain charitable institutions. One that has been mentioned here is one of them. The only class of children with which we are having trouble is the feeble-minded. There is a rapid increase in that class. We have a great number at Elwyn who are paid for by the city.

President Scragg: If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is perhaps somewhat backward, as compared with its sister States, in the plan of administering charity, it is not because there is not a disposition on the part of the citizens to administer the subject properly. We know that much of the charitable work performed comes through the assistance of the Ladies' Aid Society, and I feel that I voice the sentiment of the Directors present when I say that much of the successful work of this Association has been forwarded and assisted by these ladies: Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Willard and Mrs. Neill, and others.

Mrs. Neill, (Titusville): I would like to say that not one penny of State money has gone to purchase this property. The property will be paid for by private subscriptions.

Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia): Our Treasurer, Mr. Colborn, who has acted for a number of years so faithfully, is about to retire, and I move that the Association tender to him a vote of thanks for the manner in which he has conducted the office of Treasurer of this Association.

The motion is agreed to by a rising vote.

Mr. Snyder: I offer a resolution that a vote of thanks be extended to the Directors of Dauphin County, and to the citizens of Harrisburg for their courtesy and assistance shown this Association at this Convention.

The motion is agreed to.

Mr. Snyder moves that a vote of thanks be tendered to our worthy President for the able and efficient manner in which he has performed his duties as President of this Association.

The motion is agreed to unanimously by a rising vote.

President Scragg: I desire to thank the Association and each of the members for their kindness to me during the year I have held the office of President, and for your kindness in electing me to the position. I assure you that, while it has been a work of some trouble, I have been very much assisted by our able retiring Secretary, Mr. Colborn, who I hope to see back again in that position some day, because I think it is hardly possible to get a man who will do the work as he has done it. I have tried to fulfill this office to the best of my ability, and to treat every one well, and I thank you, one and all.

Mr. Force, (Eric): On behalf of Erie County I wish to suggest to the Association the advisability of getting as large an attendance as possible at the next meeting.

We feel somewhat isolated from the rest of you, as we are in the extreme end of the State, and it would do us good, and you good, I think, to have as many as can come.

You will there meet the County Commissioners of the State, and it seems to me that some good might come from meeting

them in joint convention, and perhaps with a longer session than you usually have. [Applause.]

Mr. Long, (Montgomery): The remarks of Dr. Walk, with reference to what the Directors can best do, or how can hospitals best assist Directors in caring for the sick or injured, it seems to me to require more than passing attention.

I say this because the matter has come home to us. We have in Norristown a State Hospital for the Insane, and we also have a Hospital of Montgomery County, receiving State aid, and the Directors and Physicians of that Hospital seem to have a tendency to turn away the poor people and say, "you must go to the Directors of the Poor and to the Physician of the Directors of the Poor for your medicine and attendance," when many of the cases could be attended to by the Hospital. I am satisfied that many people get medicine there who could afford to buy it, and then they turn away the poor. And they do this because they are made independent by receiving State appropriations.

I think the remarks of Dr. Walk on that subject were well timed; that there should be some action taken by which these hospitals should receive their appropriations, and that they should be properly measured, in proportion to their giving aid to poor people, and in that way relieving the public to some extent of the care of the paupers.

Mr. Colborn: A resolution was offered last year authorizing the Program Committee to send a circular to the various Directors asking them to send in such questions as they desired placed on the program, and that circular was sent to every Board of Directors in the State, to every Children's Aid Society, and to every charitable institution in the State, and I did not receive a single reply, although it was done at the suggestion of the Association last year. There are often criticisms about the program. No one has the least idea of the work it requires to get up a program of this kind. I have written during the last year over 600 letters in regard to this program.

Another thing: We placed members on this program for topics and papers who, if we had here, would make it one of the most interesting conventions we have ever held. Now it seems

to me that any one who would accept and agree to prepare a paper on a subject, who is honored that way, unless he has one of the best excuses, who would absent himself from the Convention, is not doing right to himself or to us.

I do hope that when the Program Committee for next year assigns any member a subject, he will feel that he is honored by the Association, and that it is his bounden duty to do all he can to enlighten the Association on the subject assigned him.

Erie is one of the most delightful places in the State to hold a Convention, and let us have the best Convention there we ever had.

Mr. McGonnigle: Before we adjourn, we have our good friend, Mr. Moore, of Cambria County here, who can sing a good patriotic song.

Mr. Moore, being called for by the Convention, sang a song composed by himself, entitled, "Fair Land of Columbia," which was received with applause.

Mr. Force, (Erie): We will not sing "Home, Sweet Home" until late in the week. I want you to stay with us. It seems to me that if this Association wishes to accomplish good, it must be by persistent, earnest effort. We have a high standard to maintain. We have an old clergyman who was fond of hunting in his earlier days, and he went to Missouri, and one evening he was around the old log fire telling their experiences, and some one came to him and says: "Stranger, you haven't said yet where you were from." And he says: "I am from the place that God Almighty planted the corner stone for the Garden of Eden." And they says to him, "Where is that?" and he says, "Erie, Pa." [Applause.]

Upon motion of Mr. McGonnigle, the Convention here adjourned to meet in the City of Erie, at the next Annual Convention, subject to date to be fixed by the Committee.

The members all rise and sing "America," led by Mr. James Moore, of Cambria.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES.

Presented during the sessions to be printed in proceedings :

ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

The Allegheny County Home at Woodville, Pa., was opened for the admission of inmates September 18, 1854.

The number of inmates in the Home October 1, 1897, was 352. Of these 125 were native and 227 of foreign birth.

The number admitted during the year ending October 1, 1898, was 506—240 being native and 266 foreign. The number discharged, died, etc., for the same period was 475. Remaining with the Home October 1, 1898, 383—125 native and 227 foreign.

The average weekly cost per capita for the year ending December 31, 1897, was \$1.89.

The total cost for repairs, etc., for 1897 was.....	\$ 6,898 70
For maintenance of inmates in the Home.....	20,590 78
For out-door relief, doctor's burials, insane in hospitals, etc.....	38,629 22
Total expenditures for the year 1897.....	\$66,118 70

We have during this present year built an addition to the Home—two stories 24 x 54 feet, which will give us much needed room. Also have under construction an Insane Asylum which when finished will accommodate 400 patients.

Officers—S. W. Lea, Superintendent, Woodville; Mrs. E. H. Lea, Matron, Woodville; Mrs. Sarah Heil and Miss Ida Whiteman, Assistant Matrons, Woodville; Dr. W. A. Jones, Resident Physician, Woodville; Chas. S. Rickenbach, Farmer, Woodville; Thomas Williard, Engineer, Woodville; Rev. R. E. Williams, Chaplain, Carnegie.

Directors—W. H. Guy, President, Coraopolis; H. W. Ochse, Secretary, Etna; Robert Smiley, McKeesport.

BEAVER COUNTY.

BEAVER COUNTY HOME.

Beaver County Home is located on the south bank of the Ohio River three miles from Beaver, the County seat.

The buildings are not as well adapted to the requirements as might be, but are in good repair. The sanitary condition of the Institution is excellent, thus reducing liability of contagion to the minimum.

The Home is heated and lighted with natural gas.

We are admirably supplied with clear, cool water, which is piped to all parts of the building from an excellent spring.

Fire protection is secured by means of storage of water in a large tank of 250 barrels capacity, situated upon an elevation sufficient to give the highest pressure. Fire escapes as well as extinguishers give additional security.

There are thirty-two rooms in the building. The population varies from 68 to 105 daily.

The Home is managed by a Board of Directors three in number. The present Board consisting of A. W. Tanner, President ; Joseph Carney, Secretary ; and James W. Mackall. Meetings of this Board convene at the Home semi-monthly, viz : about the middle of each month, for inspection and inquiry into the conduct of the attendees and condition of inmates ; upon the last Friday of each month for the approval of bills and transaction of such business bearing upon the general welfare of the Home.

The farm has an area of 130 acres. The product of same is usually sufficient, excepting wheat and meat. An abundance of substantial, nutritious food is always furnished the inmates, and their surroundings kept neat, clean and comfortable. Special diets are prepared for the sick and served in a careful manner to them in their rooms. Holiday dinners are given and the delicacies of these occasions are always befitting.

The insane of the County are kept at Dixmont, inmates, Wernersville, inmates ; Warren, 1 inmate.

There are 10 children in the Home for Feeble-Minded, Polk, Pa.

Temporary out-door relief is granted in very special cases, discontinuing relief as soon as the necessity of cases seem to justify.

The work upon the farm is largely performed by the able-bodied inmates and under the supervision of a farmer and an assistant who are employed.

It is gratifying to all that through the judicious financiering and rare judgment of the Board of Directors and the executive ability of the Steward the expenses of the institution have been materially reduced.

Officers—A. W. Tanner, Rochester ; Joseph Carney, Beaver Falls ; O. B. Elliott, Bellowsville ; J. W. Mackall, Georgetown.

PRODUCT OF FARM.

Wheat, 283 bushels ; oats, 446 bushels ; potatoes, 900 bushels ; green beans, 125 bushels ; green peas, 40 bushels ; onions, (large) 116 bushels ; onions, (sets) 15 bushels ; corn, (field) 1,800 bushels ; corn, (sweet) 250 bushels ; tomatoes, 350 bushels ; hay, 40 tons ; squash, 3 wagon loads ; cabbage, 5,000 heads ; hogs, (to kill) 34 ; chickens, (raised) 300 ; eggs, (produced) 1,000 doz. ; carrots, parsnips, beets, unharvested, 100 bushels ; turnips, 125 bushels.

CAMBRIA COUNTY.

CAMBRIA COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

Cambria County Almshouse was opened in 1857 on a farm containing 160 acres, situate one and one-half miles east of Ebensburg, Pa.

Average of inmates in house during the year ending September 30, 1898, 102. Cost for maintaining inmates per capita per week, \$1.24.

This year we have been improving and renovating the old house. We have built a brick annex to the house—size 40 ft. by 65 ft., slate roof, costing \$7,500. The annex containing three dormitories 40 ft. square, men's sitting room 25 x 40 ft., chapel 25 x 40 ft. Also, built a brick boiler house 25 x 35 feet, with brick smokestack 60 ft. high, a 70-horse power boiler for the purpose of heating the house.

During the past year we have disposed of the old system of lighting the house with lamps, and being replaced by electricity.

The house is in very good condition for the comfort of the inmates. Our sick who are in the hospital, are cared for by two men attendants, (who are also inmates) ; they carry the victuals to the bed of the sick, wash and keep them clean. Our doctor makes a daily visit.

Directors—Thomas L. Jones, Ebensburg, Pa. ; James Somerville, Sylvas, Pa. ; James Moore, Johnstown, Pa.

Steward—Thomas J. Hughes.

Matron—Mrs. Thomas Hughes.

CHESTER COUNTY.

CHESTER COUNTY HOME.

The Chester County Home is located half a mile from the west branch of the Brandywine, seven miles west of West Creek. To prevent any possible contamination of the springs which furnish the water for the Home, an adjoining property of twelve acres was recently purchased, and the farm now consists of 377 acres, all of which except 25 acres is under cultivation.

A movement being made by the Board of Directors to erect a County Insane Asylum, and the project and plans therefor approved by the State Board of Lunacy, work on the new building was commenced in June, and it is expected to be ready for patients in the course of a year. It is located on a hillside adjoining the County Home, and will accom-

moderate about 180 patients. The approximate cost of building, \$10,000.

During the past year the daily number of inmates has averaged 216. Besides these, the Board of Directors provide for 116 inmates at the Norristown Insane Asylum, 14 at Wernersville, 6 at Harrisburg, and 1 at Mt. Hope Retreat. We have also 128 children under the care of the Children's Aid Society (40 in boarding homes), and 6 feeble minded children at Elwyn. \$11,574.90 was paid for board of the insane and feeble-minded ; \$3,640 for the board of county children. The total expenditures last year were \$35,994.41.

W. HARMAR DAVIS,
Superintendent.

CARBON COUNTY.

MIDDLE COAL FIELD POOR DISTRICT.

December 31st, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last report	\$16,381 02
Chas. E. Foster, E. Mauch Chunk, 1893.....	35 12
Samuel W. Hoffard, Weatherly, 1894.....	500 00
Chas. E. Foster, E. Mauch Chunk, 1894.....	105 16
Hugh Malloy, Freeland, 1894.....	39 45
Joseph Gormley, Summit Hill, 1895.....	12 91
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1895.....	151 91
Chas. E. Foster, E. Mauch Chunk, 1895.....	71 34
Samuel W. Hoffard, Weatherly, 1895	455 34
Hugh Malloy, Freeland, 1895.....	56 57
August Huske, W. Hazleton, 1896.....	235 21
Wm. Heister, Lausford, 1896	314 53
Jacob Eberts, Lausanne twp., 1896.....	40 03
W. N. Fichter, Banks twp., 1896.....	123 45
Clarence J. Creveling, Hazleton, 1896.....	322 77
Joseph Gormley, Summit Hill, 1896.....	171 38
James J. Heeney, Lehigh twp., 1896.....	143 84
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1896.....	621 01
Patrick Sweeney, Hazle twp., 1896.....	742 96
Chas. E. Foster, E. Mauch Chunk, 1896.....	625 69
Hugh Malloy, Freeland, 1896.....	470 58
W. H. Reinbold, Jeddo, 1896.....	22 02
Clarence J. Creveling, Hazleton, 1897.....	10,166 18
James J. Heeney, Lehigh twp., 1897.....	80 12
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1897.....	3,246 19
Chas. E. Foster, E. Mauch Chunk, 1897.....	1,521 08
Wm. H. Reinbold, Jeddo, 1897.....	213 82
Thomas Rogan, Lansford, 1897.....	3,714 10
J. S. Ronemus, Mauch Chunk twp., 1897.....	3,788 90
Wm. Smyrl, Summit Hill, 1897.....	3,305 57
John Potters, Lausanne twp., 1897.....	36 47

W. E. Oberrender, Foster twp., 1897.....	\$ 2,750 66
Patrick Smith, Hazle twp., 1897.....	6,377 19
A. A. Bachman, Freeland, 1897.....	1,490 47
Patrick McKenna, W. Hazleton, 1897.....	862 68
J. W. Williams, Beaver Meadow, 1897.....	206 00
Frank P. Hoover, Weatherly, 1897.....	1,342 21
Chas. Altmiller, Hazleton, 1894.....	19 19
John Hackett, Banks twp., 1897.....	1,577 90
Maintenance of Gustav Hensel.....	216 00
“ Mrs. Esther Smith.....	180 00
“ Thos. J. Thomas.....	147 00
“ Adam Slowitskey.....	50 00
“ Amanda Roth.....	96 25
“ Amanda Hinkle.....	132 60
“ Sophia Larson.....	132 00
“ George Eames.....	126 00
“ Andrew Rehrig.....	40 00
“ Reuben Kammerer.....	21 00
Error in bill of James J. Boyle.....	16 50
Error in bill of W. H. Stroh estate.....	19 90
Fines by Alderman Heidenreich.....	2 17
Money found on John Raabe.....	2 61
Money collected from Tyrolean.....	22 00
	<hr/> \$63,544 50

DISBURSEMENTS.

Auditing expenses.....	\$ 30 00
Conveying paupers.....	282 87
Conveying insane.....	125 93
Clothing, boots and shoes.....	783 54
Dry goods and notions.....	566 51
Election expenses.....	405 60
Farm expenses.....	933 74
Farm implements.....	170 00
Fuel and light.....	1,199 19
Convention expenses and assessment.....	108 44
Groceries and provisions.....	4,820 53
House fixtures.....	117 04
House expenses.....	384 00
Maintenance of children.....	992 75
Hospital expenses.....	283 44
Insurance.....	863 85
Interest and discount.....	130 00
Improvements.....	999 05
Legal Fees and expenses.....	82 00
Medicines.....	381 25
Maintenance of Iusane, Danville.....	4,734 50
“ “ Wernersville.....	659 00

Office expenses.....	267 32	
Tobacco.....	441 20	
Paid other poor districts.....	263 48	
Our-door relief and burials.....	23,962 92	
Printing.....	493 65	
Repairs to building.....	426 34	
Balance of Steward's salary and paid in 1897.....	448 66	
Refunded taxes.....	2 06	
Salaries and expenses.....	1,400 00	
Out door medical attendance.....	285 00	
Amount paid Geo. T. Wells, Steward (See explanation below).....	3,900 00	
Land purchase.....	500 10	
	<u>\$51,093 77</u>	
Balance in Hazleton National Bank.....	12,450 73	
	<u>\$63,544 50</u>	

OUTSTANDING ON TAX DUPLICATE.
(Subject to exonerations and commissions.)

Thomas J. Moore, 1891.....	\$ 47 64
Louis Beckhoff, 1892.....	243 99
Patrick Givens, 1893.....	9 88
Conrad Brehm, 1893.....	296 49
Samuel W. Hoffard, 1894.....	550 93
Henry J. Fritz, 1894.....	46 98
Joseph Gormley, 1895.....	133 97
C. D. Culver, 1895.....	536 77
David Reese, 1895.....	208 48
Samuel W. Hoffard, 1896.....	383 09
C. D. Culver, ".....	267 36
*W. N. Fichter, ".....	64 87
Thomas Brown, ".....	142 09
Chas. E. Foster, ".....	64 55
Joseph Gormley, ".....	25 49
David Reese, ".....	42 22
Frank P. Hoover, 1897.....	830 79
*J. W. Williams, ".....	291 28
John Hackett, ".....	521 74
*John Potters, ".....	43 84
*James J. Heeney, ".....	180 72
Thomas Logan, ".....	101 89
*William Smyrl, ".....	80 74
*Chas. E. Foster, ".....	509 16
*C. J. Creveling, ".....	500 00
*John S. Ronemus, ".....	355 13
*Patrick Smith, ".....	1,500 22
Patrick McKenna, ".....	394 34
W. H. Reimbold, ".....	47 01

*Wm. Oberrender, 1897.....	1,075 28
A. A. Bachman, ".....	1,155 52
C. D. Culver, ".....	1,045 45
(Approximated).....	\$11,696 81
Less exonerations and commissions.....	5,000 00
Balance due district.....	\$6,686 81

Those marked (*) have made payment since report was made out.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES.

P. H. Latham, Physician.....	\$200 00
J. B. Tweele, Physician.....	200 00
C. Fred Kline, Secretary.....	300 00
James McCready, Director.....	200 00
Samuel Harleman, Director.....	200 00
John Schwartz, Director.....	200 00
Rev. J. P. Buxton.....	50 00
Rev. P. J. Dever.....	50 00
	\$1,400 00

OUT-DOOR RELIEF AND BURIALS.

Out-door relief Luzerne district.....	\$17,557 51
Out-door burials Luzerne district.....	444 70
Out-door relief Middle district.....	1,971 67
Out-door burial Middle district.....	12 25
Out-door relief Lower district.....	3,916 09
Out-door burials Lower district.....	60 70
	\$23,962 92

COST OF INMATES.

In this statement items not chargeable to maintenance have been deducted.

George T. Wells, Steward.....	\$3,900 00
Tobacco.....	441 20
Medicines.....	381 26
Hospital expenses.....	283 44
House expenses.....	384 00
Groceries and provisions.....	4,820 53
Fuel and light.....	1,199 19
Farm expenses.....	933 74
Dry goods and notions.....	566 41
Clothing, boots and shoes.....	783 54
	\$13,693 21

Average number of inmates, including Steward's department, 183 ; cost per month, \$6.24 ; cost per week, \$1.56 ; cost per day, \$0.22.

GEORGE T. WELLS, *Steward.*
IDA M. WELLS, *Matron.*

ADMITTED DURING THE YEAR.

Male adults.....	106
Female adults.....	43
Male children.....	3
Female children.....	3
	<hr/>
	155

DISCHARGED AND REMOVED.

Male adults.....	94
Female adults.....	31
Male children.....	6
Female children.....	1
	<hr/>
	132

DIED DURING THE YEAR.

Male adults.....	11
Female adults.....	4
	<hr/>
	45

INMATES REMAINING.

Male adults.....	127
Female adults.....	61
Male children.....	1
Female Children.....	2
	<hr/>
	191

CLASSIFICATION.

Males in hospital.....	87
Females in hospital.....	49
Males in almshouse.....	40
Females in almshouse.....	12

Of the above, 33 males and 29 females are insane.

Average number of inmates.....	183
--------------------------------	-----

DIED DURING THE YEAR.

George Gergell, February 1, age 26 ; Anthony Baltrushis, February 4, killed on railroad ; Charles Malley, February 8, age 54 ; Unknown man killed on railroad, February 17 ; Stephen Fedar, March 13, age 28 ; Clara Berkhardt, April 28, age 37 ; Tony Dominick, May 13, age 25 ; Mrs. Ambrose Sweeney, June 9, age 50 ; Mrs. John Dougherty, June 29, age 45 ; Andrew Shuro, July 28, age 26 ; Unknown man killed on railroad, July 29 ; Mike Buckmiller, September 1, age 25 ; James Mulhearn, September 26, age 61 ; Thomas Boyle, November 13, age 80 ; Ernest Roth, November 19, age 45 ; Mike Mady, December 11, age 45 ; John Ryan, December 21, age 45.

CHILDREN BORN IN 1897.

Born to Catharine Richards, boy, January 29 ; Born to Liddie Fletcher, girl, June 24.

GEORGE T. WELLS, in account with Middle Coal Field Poor District.

CR.

To Farm expenses.....	\$1,197 39
“ Hospital expenses.....	233 50
“ House expense.....	462 75
“ Freight and express.....	682 51
“ Groceries and provisions.....	35 20
“ Conveying.....	7 10
“ Fireman.....	340 50
“ Nurse.....	360 00
“ General repairs.....	61 90
“ Election expenses, teaming, etc.....	18 00
“ Office expense.....	6 00
“ Warden.....	229 32
“ Steward's traveling expenses.....	24 75
“ Salary of Steward and Matron.....	1,050 00
	<hr/> \$4,730 92

DR.

Cash received from Directors.....	\$3,900 00
Anatomical Board.....	6 00
Coal sold.....	10 00
Lard sold.....	23 95
Produce.....	24 48
Board from different parties....	26 20
Grain sold.....	19 99
Potatoes and cabbage.....	11 20
Live stock and hides.....	76 43
Merchandise ..	6 45
Old mowing machine ..	10 00
Making cider, 1896.....	9 03
Rags sold.....	1 00
Cash received from different parties.....	6 32
Balance due Steward for 1897.....	500 85
	<hr/> \$4,730 92

PRODUCE ON FARM.

1,250 bushels of corn in the ear, 1,550 bushels of oats, 1,080 bushels of rye, 668 bushels of buckwheat, 100 tons of hay, 600 bushels of mangel wurzel, 1,220 bushels of potatoes, 120 bushels of beets, 130 bushels of turnips, 45 bushels of carrots, 40 bushels of onions, 4 barrels of apples, 4,000 heads of cabbage, 6 barrels of sauer kraut, 3,476 pounds of beef, 719 pounds of veal, 8,100 pounds of pork, 1,225 pounds of lard, 2,500 pounds of hard soap, 80 barrels of soft soap, 3,120 pounds of butter.

MACHINERY ON FARM.

4 2 horse wagons, 1 2-seated carriage, 1 1-seated carriage, 1 spring wagon, 1 2-horse buss, 3 2 horse sleighs, 1 2-seated sleigh, 4 plows, 2 harrows, 2 mowing machines, 1 reaper, 1 binder, 1 fodder cutter, 1 fan mill, 1 roller, 1 seed drill. 1 cider mill, 1 manure spreader.

LIVE STOCK.

23 cows, 8 heifers, 3 steers, 1 bull, 6 calves, 8 horses, 2 mules, 21 shoats, 1 bore, 4 sows, 160 chickens, 4 ducks, 8 turkeys.

ARTICLES MADE IN HOUSE.

240 bed sheets, 300 pillow cases, 30 bolster cases, 86 bed ticks, 100 pillow ticks, 11 bolster ticks, 24 women's night gowns, 180 women's chemise, 15 children's chemise, 12 infants' chemise, 67 women's petticoats, 18 children's petticoats, 76 women's dresses, 26 children's dresses, 16 infant's dresses, 103 women's aprons, 18 children's aprons, 16 women's underwaists, 48 towels, 10 shrouds, 24 window curtains, 8 table cloths, 48 table cloths.

SAMUEL HARLEMAN,
JOHN SCHWARTZ,
JAMES McCREADY,

Attest : C. FRED KLINE, *Secretary.*

Directors.

We, the undersigned, Auditors of the Middle Coal Field Poor District, do certify that we have examined the foregoing accounts, receipts and vouchers for the expenditures of the Directors and Steward, and find them correct as above stated.

M. O. MORGAN,
J. E. ROSENSTOCK,
L. G. LUBRECHT,

January 25th, 1898.

Auditors.

Approximate value of real estate and personal property as taken and computed by the Auditors and Directors :

350 acres of land, at \$30.....	\$10,500 00
431 acres of land, at \$5.....	2,155 00
Store house.....	1,500 00
Almshouse.....	12,000 00
Hospital and fixtures.....	35,000 00
Barn.....	3,500 00
Boiler house and laundry fixtures.....	500 00
House furniture in all buildings.....	2,500 00
Chop mill.....	500 00
Water works, artesian well and pipe lines.....	1,500 00
Gas machine and fixtures.....	250 00
Ice house.....	200 00
Farm implements.....	2,000 00
Live stock.....	1,800 00
Farm produce.....	3,500 00
Cash in bank.....	12,450 73
Uncollected taxes.....	6,696 81
	<hr/>
	\$96,552 54

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

CRAWFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Crawford County Almshouse is situated in the central part of the county. It contains 235 acres, about 135 under cultivation. There are 96 inmates—62 males, 34 females, and two children, one 12 and one 16 years old. We have gotten homes for 7 children, taken 13 to Polk, and 2 to the insane asylum. The tramp trade is quite a nuisance. We do not feed and house many. We make about 125 pounds of butter a week. We have two hired men on the farm, a man and his wife to cook for the inmates, and two girls in the Superintendent's department. We had about 1,200 visitors last year, and gave meals to about half that number. We raised on the farm this year 111 tons of hay, 529 bushels of wheat, 718 bushels of oats, 2,400 bushels of corn, 857 bushels of potatoes, 46 bushels of onions, 1,200 heads cabbage, 25 bushels of beans, 600 bushels of turnips, and other garden vegetables. There are 54 head of cattle on the farm, 5 horses and 40 hogs. We give \$12,500 each year for the support of the insane asylum at Warren, and in 1896 we gave \$15,000 for out-door relief, and in 1897, \$9,000.

DELAWARE COUNTY.

DELAWARE COUNTY HOME.

Report of the Directors of the Poor of Delaware County, Pa.

DR.

Cash balance on hand January 1st, 1897.....	\$748 71
Cash received from County Commissioners.....	\$ 9,500 00
“ “ “ “ “	24,685 00
	<hr/>
“ “ “ Board of Insane.....	34,185 00
“ “ “ Farm Produce.....	469 25
“ “ “ Matilda Gardner Estate.....	240 53
“ “ “ Other sources.....	59 37
	<hr/>
	261 84
	<hr/>
	\$35,964 70
Outstanding orders.....	29 50
	<hr/>
	\$35,994 20

CR.

By Out-door relief.....	\$ 3,652 38
“ Board of Insane Patients expenses :	
Norristown Hospitals.....	10,181 50
Wernersville Hospital.....	1,394 00
Children's Aid Society.....	91 00
Northern Home for Friendless Children.....	184 84
Philadelphia Almshouse.....	145 40
Removals and Examinations.....	271 72
By Grocery and meat account.....	4,130 18
“ Clothing, dry goods, shoes.....	1,705 34

By Drug account.....	\$ 224 02
“ Salaries and wages account.....	4,546 71
“ Farm, feed and sundry account.....	5,042 11
Improvement—New water tank and fire apparatus,	3,456 13
By Outstanding orders.....	29 50
“ Balance in treasury.....	939 37
	<hr/> \$35,994 20
Weekly cost per capita.....	1 71

STATEMENT OF INMATES RECEIVED IN HOUSE, 1897 :

In the House, January 1st, 1897.....	162
Admitted during the year.....	181
Born during the year.....	5
Total.....	<hr/> 348
Of whom were white.....	329
Of whom were colored.....	19
Total.....	<hr/> 348
Remaining in the House December 31st, 1897.....	176
Discharged, eloped and removed.....	149
Died.....	23
Total.....	<hr/> 348
Lodgings furnished tramps.....	3,208
Meals furnished tramps.....	2,262
Families assisted outside the House.....	210

Directors—Razell E. James, Newton P. West, W. Glover Clark.

Officers—W. Glover Clark, President, Bethel; Newton P. West, Swarthmore, Treasurer; Razell E. James, Secretary, Chester, Pa.

ERIE COUNTY.

ERIE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Erie County Almshouse is situated on the main road leading from Erie to Cleveland, Ohio, about three and one-half miles west of the city of Erie.

The main office is located in Erie city, in the Penn building, corner of Eighth and State streets. It is centrally located, and can be reached by street cars from the depots of any of the railroads entering Erie, and is connected with the Almshouse by telephone.

The present Almshouse building was erected in 1870, and is substantially built of brick, with cellars and a fine stone wall under the entire structure. The main building is 190 feet long and 60 feet wide, four stories high, fronting south, with a wing 84 feet long by 32 feet wide, three stories high, extending from the center, north.

In the cellars under the wing, are located the boilers, engines, bakery and heating apparatus. The entire building is heated by steam. Gas is used for fuel and to light the entire building.

The first floor of the wing contains the kitchen, the inmate's dining room, pantry, etc. On the second floor are the rooms of the insane females. On the third floor is the male hospital. Each of these apartments is furnished with dining room, bath-tub, water closet, etc.

The Steward's office is located at the left of the main entrance hall, on the ground-floor; and the Steward's private apartments at the right. These separate the east and west wings, in which are located the males and females respectively.

The Steward's department is accessible from all parts of the house, and completely separates the sexes from communication, unless by consent of some official.

All supplies for the Almshouse are kept in the storeroom, located on the same floor as the Steward's department, and are served out to the inmates and employes only on the order of the Steward; a record of the same being made by the clerk.

The east part of the main building is occupied by the male paupers. The first floor contains the sitting and smoking rooms, and a large, roomy hall. The second, third and fourth floors are dormitories, with bath-tubs and water closets on each floor.

The west part of the main building is occupied by the female paupers, being divided into the old ladies' apartments, female hospital, apartments for the feeble minded, etc., all supplied with bath-tubs and water closets.

On the first floor is the chapel, in which services are held regularly. There is no discrimination in religious matters. Protestants and Catholics have free access to the chapel for services. Protestant service every two weeks.

During the last year we have built an addition for the keeping of the mildly insane males, being 32 feet wide and 60 feet long. It is heated by steam and lighted by gas. The portion occupied by the insane is fitted up with a sitting room and comfortable rooms for the inmates, and a private room for the keeper. It is supplied with bath-tubs and closets. The institution will comfortably accommodate about 300 inmates. On October 1st, 1898, there were 198 inmates, classified as follows: Males—white, 121, colored, 1; females—white, 72, colored, 2; and two children under two years of age. Of this number there were 73 natives and 125 foreigners. 25 insane males, and 22 insane females. Total insane, 47. 2 idiotic males, 1 idiotic female, 1 deaf and dumb male, 1 blind male, and 1 blind female. These inmates are kept at an average of about \$1.50 per week.

We have a neatly kept cemetery in connection with the Home. Records are kept of those who die, and a neat marble slab, with its number to correspond with the name and number kept in the record, is placed at the head of each grave.

On January 29th, 1898, the large bank barn at the Home was destroyed by fire. Since then we have erected in its stead a barn 145 feet long and 50 feet wide. It is a very substantial structure, and is admitted by all to be one of the best in Erie county, at a cost between ten and

eleven thousand dollars. The farm contains 141 acres of level land, in a high state of cultivation. The production of the farm for the year was 700 bushels wheat, 1,400 bushels oats, 2,500 bushels corn, 1,400 bushels potatoes, 1,500 bushels roots, and 125 tons of hay, besides enough small vegetables to supply the Home. There are kept on the farm 7 head of horses, 25 head of cows, and 50 swine.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

FAYETTE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

We have nothing new or unusual to report at this meeting. The policy of the management is about the same as it has been for several years past, to keep and support our helpless and unfortunate fellow citizens as comfortably as may be at as reasonable a cost as possible and without want, waste or extravagance in any quarter.

We have at present in the Home.....	134
Of these, native born	54
Foreign born.....	80

Of our insane, we have at Dixmont.....	18
Wernersville.....	1
At home	17
	36

We have children under our charge, in all, to-wit :

At Polk, feeble-minded	14
In care of Children's Aid Society.....	22
	36

Total in care of County	206
-------------------------------	-----

We also have a large number of out-door beneficiaries, many more indeed than we should have, and yet we have been trying to reduce the number as fast as possible.

We have a very good farm of about 130 acres, and the products aid us very much in the maintenance of our inmates. During the past season we have gathered products from the farm and garden as follows : Hay, 50 tons ; wheat, 505 bushels ; corn, 1,600 bushels ; potatoes, 650 bushels ; parsnips, 100 bushels ; beets, 40 bushels ; tomatoes, 150 bushels ; carrots, 30 bushels ; turnips, 100 bushels ; cabbages, 12,500 heads, and other minor vegetables in proportion.

The total cost of maintenance, about \$20,000 ; cost per capita, about \$1.82.

Directors—H. D. Core, President ; G. H. Wood, Secretary ; Joseph M. Bates.

Officers—S. D. Newcomer, Steward ; Mrs. S. D. Newcomer, Matron ; J. W. Parshall, Physician ; H. F. Detwiler, Attorney.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME.

The Franklin County Home is located on a bank of the Falling Spring, about a mile and a half east of Chambersburg, and near the turnpike leading from Chambersburg to Gettysburg. It is convenient of access, and in natural surroundings it is nice and healthful. The inmates are well housed and fed, and are contented and happy. It has been the constant aim of the management that each year should show some advance and improvement. Our buildings are all heated by steam, have all been freshly repainted, and we are in telephone touch with the whole county. We have all modern improvements except electric light, and that is now being introduced, and soon will be an accomplished fact.

During the past year the grounds surrounding the Institution have been beautified, and an arch built at the entrance on which is painted the name of the Institution. The personnel of the Board of Directors is the same as last year, this being so by reason of the fact that the electors of Franklin County honored John G. Youst, Esq., with a second term. The officers of the Board for the year were as follows: L. C. Martin, Esq., President; Jacob Potter, Steward; Rebecca Potter, Matron; Dr. H. X. Bonebrake, Physician; S. M. Shields, Treasurer; Jacob Heckman, Chaplain; and C. A. Suesserott, Attorney and Clerk.

The management and condition of our Home has been frequently commended by the Board of Public Charities. We feel that we can with pride look upon our Institution. With all the improvements we have made, we have kept our expense accounts within bounds, and cared for the interests of our tax-payers.

Our house expenses have steadily decreased, and our total expenses have not increased, as the following statement will show:

House expenses in 1894.....	\$ 5,078 74
House expenses in 1895....	4,655 37
House expenses in 1896.....	4,574 45
House expenses in 1897.....	4,499 08
Total expenses in 1894.....	15,627 67
Total expenses in 1895.....	15,604 74
Total expenses in 1896.....	15,569 18
Total expenses in 1897.....	15,590 25

With this showing the Board feels satisfied with the work that has been accomplished, and with the knowledge that the poor unfortunates, numbering 106 persons under our care, are well cared for, contented and happy. We are gratified and pleased with the work at the Franklin County Home.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

HILLSIDE HOME ALMSHOUSE.

This Poor District comprises the City of Scranton and Dunmore Borough, in Lackawanna County, and was established by Act of Assembly, April 9th, A. D. 1862.

The Home is located in Newton Township, Lackawanna County, nine miles northwest from Scranton, on the D. L. & W. R. R.

The poor district has a population of 125,000. The Almshouse farm contains 300 acres of land, nearly all of which is under cultivation.

It is under the superintendence of seven Directors, the present Board being W. S. Langstaff, President, Frederick Fuller, Thomas Shotton, W. A. Paine, M. D., P. J. Murphy, Fred. L. Terppe, R. G. Brooks, W. S. Langstaff, Jr., Secretary, who hold semi-monthly meetings at their office, in Scranton, the first and third Fridays of each month.

There were in the "Hillside Home" Almshouse on September 30th, 1898, 196 inmates, of whom 133 were males, and 63 females. In the "Hillside Home" Hospital for the Insane, there were 248 inmates, of whom 124 were males, and 124 females; the total number of inmates in the Institution on September 30th, 1898, was 444.

The total expenditure of the District for the year 1897, was :

Salaries and services	\$ 18,279 57
Out-door relief	14,850 97
Supplies.....	28,919 79
Improvements and repairs	30,322 79
Printing and stationery	545 36
Furniture and Furnishings	3,066 64
Miscellaneous	4,017 95
	<hr/>
	\$100,003 07

Great improvements have been made at the Home within the last two years; a modern electric light plant, of 1,500 light capacity, has been installed, replacing the old which had become worn out and almost useless; the new system of steam heating adopted gives entire satisfaction, heats the buildings well at a nominal cost, as the only steam used is the exhaust steam from the engines at the power house, excepting during very severe weather, when a little live steam is used.

The lawn in front of the buildings has been greatly improved and enlarged, making a lawn of about 12 acres in area, surrounded by a neat iron fence nine feet high. The extension of the lawn for about 400 feet further away from the buildings necessitated the construction of a new road-way of one-half mile in length, and the removal of our large barns and outbuildings, thereby giving an unobstructed view of the surrounding country for miles around from any of the buildings.

The fencing of the grounds will now permit the demented ones more freedom for recreation, and guard against their going away and getting astray.

At the present time the capacity of our Institution is very much taxed, especially the Insane Department, as we not only take care of the insane of our own district, but from many other districts. At the present we have patients from Susquehanna, Luzerne, Monroe and Columbia Counties, and from several of the Poor Districts in our own county.

The Directors and Managers take particular pride in the Institution, and leave nothing undone that will promote the health, and in making the surroundings pleasant and cheerful for the inmates, and aim at making the Home a model Institution.

The officers of the Institution are: George W. Beemer, Superintendent, Mrs. Jennie Beemer, Matron, A. Straug, M. D., Resident Physician, and J. F. Williams, Clerk.

LANCASTER COUNTY.

LANCASTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE, HOSPITAL AND INSANE ASYLUM.

The Lancaster County Almshouse, Hospital and Insane Asylum is situated on the Philadelphia Pike, east of Lancaster City, on a farm of 190 acres governed by six Directors elected by the people of Lancaster County. The Directors at the present time are erecting an Almshouse between the Almshouse and old Asylum 150 feet long and 75 feet wide to accommodate 150 patients at a cost of \$71,900.00.

At present we are maintaining in the Almshouse: Males, 192; females, 64. In the Insane Asylum: Males, 86; females, 52. In the Hospital: Males, 82; females, 41. In the State Hospital: 52 at Wernersville; 3 at Elwyn. 26 children out on boarding over two years and under four—46 total. Maintained, 644.

The present officers are: Steward, Wm. Good; Matron, Mrs. Wm. Good; Resident Physician, S. W. Miller; Secretary, W. C. Grube; Solicitor, John M. Groff; Treasurer, John B. Miller.

Directors—R. W. Bard, President; H. W. Graybill, J. S. Strine, M. A. Grube, J. H. Weaver, Fred. Shoff.

LEBANON COUNTY.

LEBANON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Lebanon County Almshouse is a brick building 60 x 120 feet and three stories in height; divided into equal parts, one part for male and the other for female inmates.

It is situated on high ground and is surrounded by a large yard planted with shade trees, altogether a healthy location. At the end of the grounds there is a stone and brick Hospital 30 x 60 feet, three stories high, with separate wards for male and female patients. This Institution is in charge of a competent Steward who resides in the building, and has an adequate supply of drugs on hand. To the south and outside of the grounds there is a two-story frame emergency Hospital 30 x 50 feet for accommodating patients with contagious diseases.

Paupers admitted from September 30, 1897, to September 30, 1898 : Male, 75 ; female, 19 ; children, 16 ; children born, 2 ; total, 132—natives, 95 ; foreigners, 37. Number discharged : Male, 73 ; female, 13 ; children discharged and removed, 17 ; total discharged, 103—natives, 66 ; foreigners, 37. Number remaining on September 30, 1898 : Male, 46 ; female, 35 ; children, 5 ; total 86—natives, 71 ; foreigners, 15. Insane in the State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg, 22 ; in Wernersville Asylum, 3 ; total insane, 25. Children in charge of Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia, 8 ; in Training School at Elwyn, 1 ; in private homes, 17 ; total children, 26.

Tramps lodged, 2,931 ; meals to tramps, 7,709. Cash paid to out-door relief, \$3,369.10 ; out-door wheat furnished, 406 bushels ; out-door coal furnished, 199 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons ; out-door shoes furnished, 121 pairs. Total Almshouse expenditures for last year, \$18,271.69.

The Almshouse owns a farm of 200 acres under cultivation, with orchard and pasture land, and a stone barn 60 x 114 feet.

Beef fattened and slaughtered on the farm, 18,269 pounds. Pork fattened and slaughtered on the farm, 9,488 pounds. Grain raised : Wheat, 1,636 bushels ; oats, 855 bushels ; rye, 30 bushels ; corn, 2,900 bushels ; potatoes, 738 bushels ; hay, 112 tons.

Officers—John H. Light, Steward ; Dr. Samuel Weiss, Physician ; Grant W. Nitrauer, Attorney ; John B. Fisher, Treasurer ; George Louer, Hospital Steward ; Grant Boger, Farmer.

Directors—Jacob S. Kreider, Isaac K. Mumma, Davilla Donnuyer.

LUZERNE COUNTY.

CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT.

Annual report of Central Poor District of Luzerne County for 1897, as sent to State Board of Charities :

EXPENDITURES.

Total Almshouse expenses.....	\$15,945 23
Outside expenses :	
Out-door relief.....	15,022 51
Insane in Hospitals.....	20,483 47
Children in Homes.....	400 00
Feeble-minded at Elwyn.....	420 50
Poor in other Institutions.....	2,422 75
Other outside expense.....	3,625 17
Aggregate expense.....	\$58,349 63
Receipts not taxes.....	1,227 71
Net cost.....	\$57,121 92

No liabilities.

Average number of inmates in Almshouse.....	162
Average weekly cost per capita.....	\$1 89
Average number of insane in Hospitals during the year.....	241

Officers—Abram Nesbitt, President ; S. W. Davenport, Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors—G. H. Butler, J. H. Oplinger, A. J. Belles, G. H. Shiffer, C. A. Westfield and Louis Tisch. M. Eichelberger, Steward ; E. J. Butler, Physician ; D. L. O'Neil, Attorney.

MERCER COUNTY.

MERCER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

Mercer County Almshouse is located one mile north of Mercer, the County seat of Mercer County.

The number of inmates in the Home October 1, 1898, 105. Of these 69 are men, 33 women and 3 children.

During the past two years there have been admitted to the Home 135 men, 55 women and 43 children. Of these there have been discharged in various ways, 88 men, 28 women and 40 children.

We have in the Hospital for Insane at Warren, 65 patients. Of these there are 33 men and 32 women.

In Morganza Reform School we have 4 girls.

In the Training School at Polk we have 10 males and 21 females.

Cost of repairs on building, 1898, \$380 00.

Officers' and attendants' salaries, \$4,655.00.

Maintaining Almshouse for the year 1898, \$7,019.00. Cost per capita, \$98.00.

Products of the farm, 1897 : Hay, 70 bushels ; wheat, 525 bushels ; oats, 840 bushels ; potatoes, 560 bushels ; corn, 2,200 bushels ; onions, 75 bushels ; milk, 121,362 pounds ; beef, 2,839 pounds ; pork, 5,173 pounds.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Montgomery County Almshouse was established by a special law passed in 1806. A new Almshouse building was erected about 1870. It is located on the Schuylkill River about ten miles from Norristown, the County seat.

The farm connected with the institution contains about 300 acres and is very productive. During the present year a substantial grain barn with stabling accommodations underneath was built. The Almshouse was papered and painted and considerably renovated since last report.

The inmates are well cared for and generally in good health. Average number of inmates during the past year, 189. Average weekly cost of maintaining inmates at Almshouse, \$1.30. About 300 persons have been given out-door relief besides those receiving medical attendance and the burials.

Paid for out-door relief.....	\$8,500 95
“ “ medical attendance.....	1,676 75
“ “ burials.....	680 00
Board of children.....	1,003 76
Salaries and wages.....	5,428 80
Almshouse supplies, etc.....	15,065 13
	<hr/>
	\$32,355 39
Cash receipts at Almshouse.....	4,678 03

Net cost to county for past year.....\$27,677 36

We have no insane in the Almshouse and the County Commissioners pay for those at State Hospitals.

Directors—Franklin Eppeheimer, Royersford; William Shepherd, Colmar; William K. Kuder, Norristown; A. D. Alderfer, Steward, Royersford; Edward E. Long, Solicitor; Dr. M. Y. Weber, Physician.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

COAL TOWNSHIP ALMSHOUSE.

Report of Coal Township Poor District and Almshouse to the State Convention of the Directors of the Poor, convened at Harrisburg, Pa.

OUTSIDE EXPENSES.

Outdoor relief.....	\$24,653 02
Insane in hospitals.....	2,385 45
Children in homes.....	71 75
Feeble-minded in training schools.....	100 00
Salaries, labor and other outside expenses.....	6,423 26
	<hr/>
	\$33,633 48

ALMSHOUSE EXPENSES.

Salary, wages and labor.....	\$ 872 00
Provisions and supplies.....	1,008 96
Fuel, light, clothing and shoes.....	569 69
Dry goods and furniture.....	81 37
Medicine and supplies.....	239 83
Farm expenses and repairs.....	501 08
Incidental expenses.....	156 33
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,429 26

Aggregate expenses.....\$ 37,062 74

Number of days of support given inmates, including tramps.... 11,385

Number of people relieved outside of Almshouse..... 1,391

Average cost of each per week..... \$2 11

The out-door relief will be less this year on account of the improvements in the coal trade.

Each applicant must present an application sworn to by himself; also sworn to by two real estate owners, as to his being worthy of the support, and then each case is investigated.

Directors—D. W. Zaring, W. S. Heil, David Hann.

SOMERSET COUNTY.

SOMERSET COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

The Somerset County Poor House was established by Act of Assembly, approved 15th April, 1845.

It was decided by vote of the people on 8th October, 1845, by a majority of 123.

The Commissioners appointed to purchase the ground and establish a poor house, had every thing in readiness to receive the inmates by 1st December, 1846.

By special Act of Assembly, the right to commit insane persons was granted to all, no matter what their condition might be.

The farm is situated two miles from Somerset, and is beautifully located, and among the most productive farms of the county.

The main building was erected in 1859, and is 124 feet long, 40 feet wide, with center wing 40 x 40 feet. This building is arranged for female patients, Steward's department, dining rooms, and Director's departments. It is well adapted for this purpose.

The men's department is a large two-story building, 90 x 25 feet, and is only used for sleeping departments.

The insane building is a fine two-story brick, 39 x 52 feet, well laid off, and will accommodate thirty patients.

The buildings are all in good repair, heated with steam and lighted with electric light, with telephone connection to all parts of the county; never in the history of the poor house did the Home present a better appearance, or was it in better repair; in the language of Dr. Wetherill, "no Home in the State has any more complete and comfortable quarters for their poor than Somerset."

On the 1st of October, 1898, we established a hospital for the keeping of our chronic insane under County Care Act of Assembly, approved 25th May, 1898, and have more than thirty inmates, seven of whom were brought back from the State hospital at Dixmont. As this is a new departure, we cannot speak with much experience in the matter, but we do not anticipate any serious trouble in the matter.

The changes made that were necessary for the keeping of the insane, cost the county \$480; this is a much less expense than was anticipated when the application was made to keep our chronic insane.

The products of the farm in 1897 amounted to.....	\$2,449 85
Whole number of inmates in the Home October 1st, 1898	79
Children in private families.....	4
Children indentured.....	36
Children in care of Children's Aid Society.....	25
Children in Reform School.....	3
Children in D. & D. School.....	1
Children in Feeble-minded School, Polk.....	4
Inmates in Hospital, at Dixmont.....	27
Inmates at Hospital at Wernersville.	2
Inmates in Hospital at Harrisburg.....	1

Total number under the charge of the Poor Directors.... 183

Amount of out-door expenses and improvements.....	\$ 3,148 20
Amount of expense of maintaining Home.....	\$5,905 82
Receipts of Home from sales, &c.....	1,185 91

Cost to County for maintaining Poor House.....	\$ 4,719 91
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Sane in Home.....	43
Insane in Home.....	31
Blind.....	2
Deaf and Dumb.....	3

Total.....	79
------------	----

Natives.....	62
Foreigners.....	17
	<hr/> 79

Tramps relieved.....	309
Meals furnished.....	587
Lodgings furnished.....	309

Valuation of personal property.....	\$ 9,127 80
Estimated value of buildings and farm.....	40,000 00
Total value.....	<hr/> \$49,127 80

PRODUCTS OF THE FARM FOR 1898.

No. of Tons of Hay.....	84
" " " " Straw.....	27
" " " " Cornfodder.....	50
" " Bushels Wheat.....	675
" " " Rye.....	100
" " " Corn.....	1,300
" " " Oats.....	1,100
" " " Buckwheat.....	100
" " " Potatoes.....	1,400
" " Heads of Cabbage.....	2,000
" " Bushels Beans.....	20
" " " Peas.....	20
" " " Apples.....	200

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

AUBURN AND RUSH POOR ASYLUM.

Report of the Auburn and Rush Poor Asylum for the year ending March 14, 1898.

Receipts from all sources.....	\$ 3,804 68
Total expenditures for year.....	3,540 81
Leaving a balance in Treasury.....	<hr/> \$ 263 87

Outstanding claims.....	\$ 255 07
Real estate valuation.....	5,000 00
Personal property ..	1,807 00

Average number of inmates supported during year at asylum, 17 ; insane, 11 ; homes for children, 1 ; out door, 6 ; total 35, at an average cost of \$1.94 per week, including all expenses, improvements, clothing, salaries, etc.

Tax levied, 4 mills.

Directors.—G. M. Sheldon, R. O. Bunnell, Andrew Carler, Herbert Fish, Treasurer ; W. N. Barns, Secretary.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

CHILDRENS' HOME.

The Washington County Childrens' Home is supported from the poor fund of the County and is under the care of our efficient Board of Directors. During the past year 119 children have been in the Home. The highest number at any one time was 66, the average number being 57. The cost per capita per week, of supporting them is about \$2.20. This may seem extravagant to you after some of the reports of yesterday, but this includes everything ; the salary of a teacher which with boarding amounts to \$38 a month, also physician's salary. It also includes the expenses of three girls at the Industrial School, at Indiana, and \$25 a year each for eight children at Polk, which we do not count in our average. It also includes an outfit of good, simple clothing for every child that goes out from the Home, averaging about \$5.00 for every child. And when we consider that the great majority of these children are under 10 years of age, and that nearly everything has to be done for them, the cost is not surprising. We have in the Home at the present time 57 children. Of the other 62 children, 10 have been placed in homes by the C. A. S., and 16 placed in homes by order of the Directors, making 26 placed in homes during the year ; 35 have been returned to their parents and friends. Only one death occurred in the Home during the year.

We avoid as far as possible the institutional feature of the work, and endeavor to make everything as home-like as possible. Everyone is trained to do what he can, and the spiritual training is not neglected—we have a very interesting Sabbath School—and altogether they are as happy a lot of children as you would see anywhere.

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

CHESTER COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

With the hearty co-operation of the Directors of the Poor, our Aid Society in organized effort continues to hopefully labor for the uplifting of dependent and neglected children, trusting when the better nature is cultivated, the baser tendency will die for want of nourishment. Our people are becoming more interested in this work, as is shown by the increasing active membership of our Society, which for the past year has been 167.

Owing to force of circumstances several children have passed from the care of the Society during the year, two have been adopted, one has been admitted into the Soldiers' Orphan School at Chester Springs, a number have outgrown our supervision, some have been returned to relatives, a few have died, and others have absconded.

Since last report 18 children have been added to our number. Under the care of the Society at present there are 128 County wards—88 in free homes, 40 in boarding homes.

In our line of work, with unprotected children who do not become a public charge, we have 20 names enrolled; these have been cared for, placed in homes and a healthy development secured.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Number of children in Boarding Homes, Oct. 1, 1897 :

Belonging to County.....	18	
“ parents	1	19

Received from County :

From Oct. 1, 1897, to Oct. 1, 1898.....	41
From Humane Agent.....	4
From parents.....	10
From other counties.....	8

Total Oct. 1, 1897, to Oct. 1, 1898..... 82

Returned to friends..... 15

Returned to other counties..... 6

Placed in institutions (Morganza 1, Polk 2, St.

Paul's O. S. 2, School for Colored Cripples 1) 6

Died at boarding homes (babies).. 3

Placed in free homes..... 30

Belonging to County..... 23

Belonging to other Counties..... 2

Belonging to parents.....	5	
In boarding homes Oct. 1, 1898....	22	82
Number of children since we organized.....	256	
Number under care for the year.....	167	
Passed from care on account of age.....	4	
Married this year.	1	

Of those in boarding homes 4 belong to last year's report, and 18 have been received this year, and of those 9 are from eight months to three years of age.

Our Society has been especially successful in placing little ones in homes for adoption.

Our County Superintendent and Directors have not only assisted us by paying for the board and clothing of the children, but have been very kind in giving us encouragement and sympathy, and always acting with us in everything pertaining to the welfare of the unfortunate children deprived of their natural guardians, but in many cases more fortunate than if left to the care of their parents.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

We regret not being able to meet with you at this present time. It is with great pleasure that we present to you the following paper :

The Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania has been in existence for sixteen years. It is the aim of this society to give the advantages of home life and loving care to those children who are unfortunately deprived, by no fault of their own, of these great blessings. Poverty, disease, death and crime have been the causes of the little ones being cast uncared for into the world. Our experience shows that the plan of placing each child in a carefully investigated family, is a far better one for development of character, than institution life; the individual traits and qualifications being more closely watched and considered than is possible when large numbers are classed together, also a love of home life is inculcated.

It is the strong desire of the Children's Aid Society to co-operate with the various Poor Boards of Pennsylvania and we are glad to state that the co-operation has greatly increased during the last year,—the Society having received children from twenty-one different Poor Boards, and also very kind letters expressing appreciation of our work.

The care of foundlings is one of the important branches of the work of the Society. Our methods have proved so successful that they have been recently adopted by a Society in another State.

Mr. Lambert, the President of the Philadelphia Almshouse, says : "The system inaugurated several years ago, of placing foundling infants at a nursing home in the country selected by the Children's Aid Society, has, we believe, finally solved the problem of how best to care for foundling infants."

The greatest care and supervision is given by the Children's Aid Society to the school work of its wards. The monthly reports from the various schools which they attend are sent directly to the office of the Society (321 South 12th St., Philadelphia,) often with comments of the teachers of the pupils' progress. Also regular reports are received from the clergy of the different denominations, showing the attendance of our wards at church and Sunday school. Each child is reared in the faith which their parents have professed.

The county prison is visited at regular intervals by the officials of the Children's Aid Society, to endeavor to obtain possession of children who have been arrested and placed there awaiting trial. In many cases, the Judges and Magistrates, on application, are willing to commit them to our care, instead of sending them to reformatories or penal institutions. The results in these cases have been most encouraging, as many young people need wise and helpful guidance more than restraint and punishment.

A corps of experienced officials is employed to visit the wards of the Society, also the homes and schools in which they are placed. The clothing of each child is carefully examined, and the purchases made in the counties they are living in. This supervision continues throughout the entire year, in order that the condition of every ward may be known to the Society at all times.

A valuable part of our work is the "Department of Domestic Service." A bureau of registration is kept at the office of the Children's Aid Society where women with young children can obtain situations at respectable service places in the country, at moderate wages. The separation of mother and child is thus often prevented, the maternal tie is strengthened, and many women are enabled to support themselves.

Officers—Mrs. James C. Biddle, President ; Mrs. W. W. Frazier, Vice-President ; Mary S. Buckley, Secretary ; Charles E. Peterson, Treasurer ; Elizabeth Kerr, Superintendent.

THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF THE —

ASSOCIATION

— OF —

Directors of the Poor

And Charities

— OF THE —

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

— HELD AT —

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA,

OCTOBER 11th, 12th and 13th, 1899.

IRA E. BRIGGS, STENOGRAPHER.

PITTSBURGH,

THE MYERS & SHINKLE CO., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 711 LIBERTY STREET.

1899.

INDEX.

ADDRESSES :	PAGE.
Address of Welcome—Hon. John Depinet	10
Response to Address of Welcome—Mr. J. W. Peek	11
“ “ “ —Mr. Wm. Davis	13
“ “ “ —Mrs. J. L. Anderson	17
President's Address—Mr. Jno. M. Groff	18
Invitations.	19
Program	20
Enrollment of Delegates	22
Committees Appointed	24

PAPERS :—

“Immigration and the Necessity for more Stringent Laws”—Mr. N. P. West, Delaware	25
“Qualifications, Duties and Responsibilities of Directors of the Poor and Stewards of Homes”—Mr. M. Shumaker, Somerset	32
“Is a Farm of Primary Importance to the Successful Management of an Almshouse?”—Mr. James S. Wallace, Mercer	38
“Hospitals for the Insane, their Work, Results, and Cause of Increase of Insanity”—Dr. Henry M. Wetherill	42
“State Appropriations to Charities”—Col. E. P. Gould, Erie	46
“Should Tramps be Tolerated or Encouraged? Effect of the Vagrant Laws”—Mr. Edward E. Long, Montgomery	61
“The Curfew Law and its Effect on Children”—Mrs. Roger Sherman, Crawford	75
“The Best Means of Disposing of Traveling Paupers who are Trying to Get to their Former Place of Residence”—Mr. Wm. M. Brown, Blair	84
“The Legal Right and Authority over Children Placed in Care of Children's Aid Society”—Mr. H. W. Ochse, Allegheny	91

REPORTS :—

Committee on Next Meeting	68
Committee on Officers	80
Committee on Resolutions	82
Committee on Auditing and Finance	87

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES :—

Allegheny County	97
Berks County	97
Cambria County	98
Carbon County—Middle Coal Field District	99
Chester County	101
Crawford County	101
Dauphin County	101
Delaware County.	102
Fayette County	103

INDEX—CONTINUED.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES—*Continued.*

Greene County	104
Lackawanna County	104
Lancaster County	105
Luzerne County	106
Mereer County	107
Montgomery County	108
Northumberland County	109
Philadelphia County	109
Somerset County	110
York County	111

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES:—

Chester County	113
Crawford County	115
Fayette County	113
Greene County	116
Philadelphia County	117



ORGANIZATION FOR 1899-1900.

LOUIS TISCH, Luzerne	President
JAMES W. BARKER, Delaware.	Vice-President
ROBERT SMILEY, Allegheny	"
THOMAS J. HUGHES, Cambria	"
JOHN HARRINGTON, Erie	"
MRS. H. L. RANKIN, Fayette	"
MRS. L. B. WALTON, Chester	"
WILLIAM P. HUNKER, Allegheny	Secretary
L. C. COLBORN, Somerset	Corresponding Secretary
R. D. McGONNIGLE, Pittsburg	Honorary Secretary
GEORGE W. BEAMER, Lackawanna	Treasurer



COMMITTEES.

OFFICERS.

W. H. GUY	Allegheny
J. W. BAKER	Delaware
JAMES MOORE	Cambria
SARAH GIVENS	York
ELIZABETH NEIL	Crawford

FINANCE AND AUDITING.

FRED. FULLER	Seranton
J. W. PECK	Somerset
J. L. SMITH	Chester

PLACE OF MEETING.

JOHN F. SCRAGG	Seranton
LOUIS TISCH	Wilkesbarre
J. L. STRINE	Lancaster
CLARKE HAGGERTY	Fayette
WM. M. BROWN	Blair

RESOLUTIONS.

E. P. GOULD	Erie
MRS. H. L. RANKIN	Fayette
J. L. ROW	Dauphin
MRS. LYDIA WALTON	Chester
C. S. SNYDER	Philadelphia

LEGISLATION.

J. HOWARD MORRISON	Philadelphia
S. W. DAVENPORT	Luzerne
H. W. GRAYBILL	Lancaster
L. C. COLBORN	Somerset
FRED. F. FLEITZ	Laekawanna

PROGRAM.

L. C. COLBORN	Somerset
N. P. WEST	Delaware
P. H. BRIDENBAUGH	Blair
S. W. DAVENPORT	Luzerne
MRS. M. O. KOOSÉE	Somerset

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

ABRAM NESBITT	Luzerne
S. W. DAVENPORT	"
GEO. H. SCHIFFER	"
J. H. OPLINGER	"
CHAS. A. WESTFIELD	"
GEO. H. BUTLER	"
A. P. CHILDS	"
DR. E. J. BUTLER	"
D. L. O'NEIL	"
LOUIS TISCH	"

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

N. P. WEST	Delaware
S. M. DAVENPORT	Luzerne
LOUIS TISCH	Wilkesbarre

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES
OF THE
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
HELD IN THE
COURT HOUSE,
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA,
OCTOBER 10, 11 AND 12, 1899.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania convened in the Court House at Erie, Pa., at 10 o'clock A. M. on the 10th day of October 1899, and was called to order by President Groff.

Prayer was offered by Rev. B. Canfield Jones, of Park Presbyterian Church, Erie, in which he called for divine blessing upon those gathered in Convention and asked for light to guide and lead them in their work.

T. W. Shacklett favored the Convention with a solo, "Valley by the Sea," and in response to a hearty encore gave one of his most enjoyable humorous songs, "Girl Wanted."

Hon. John Depinet, Mayor of the City of Erie, was here introduced to the Convention by President Groff, and said :

Mr. Chairman, Delegates to the Convention, Ladies and Gentlemen: I will make a little apology to you, as I have been sick and am not as strong as usual, so you will pardon me. It gives me pleasure to welcome you to our beautiful city on the shores of Lake Erie. No doubt to many of you this is the first visit here and you naturally have some curiosity to know what kind of people we are, in this northwestern portion of the Commonwealth.

We have been unfortunate in the past in securing many conventions, presumably on account of our geographical location, but I assure you it is not the fault of our people. They have always worked hard to secure conventions and to make this a Convention City. Our citizens have looked with great interest and pleasure to your coming here at this time, but we are sorry you did not come earlier in the summer, when our resorts were open and the boating season was at its height. You could have had a much better time than now.

Erie has a population of about 60,000. Further than that it has plans outlined, and its people have plenty of pluck and enterprise which if properly applied, with honesty and unselfishness, will soon make us a city of 100,000 people. I will not attempt to enumerate to you the many attractions of our city. The Committee of Arrangements will tell you of its attractions and will take good care of you while you are here. But I would not be doing my duty as Mayor if I did not mention with some pride a few of our institutions.

I will first call attention to our public schools. I believe we have as good a public school system as there is in the world. We have sixteen large, commodious and well-managed schools, with a daily attendance of 5,800. Next comes our grand and stately High School, with its 560 students, and it will pay you to go there at noon and see those handsome boys and girls coming out of there. Next I will call your attention to our Public Library, which is a credit to a city four times our size, and I trust none of you will leave the city without seeing it. We have many handsome churches. St. Peter's cathedral is worth your attention. The City Water Works are worth seeing and I hope you will see them and the beautiful park surrounding them. Then we have the Government Building and the City Building. The Soldiers' Home I see you are going to visit. That has many attractions and has historical surroundings. There are our Hospitals and Homes and many manufactories.

I trust your stay will be a happy one, and that you will derive much pleasure from it and that when you have reached your several homes you can truthfully say, "I enjoyed my visit at Erie." I extend cordially the freedom of the city, thanking you for your kind attention. [Applause.]

Following Mayor Depinet Hon. Emory A. Walling, President Judge of Erie County, welcomed the Convention on behalf of the County of Erie as follows :

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: We learn from our own experiences and from the experiences of others. It was, therefore, a happy thought that first suggested the annual conventions of the County Com-

missioners and also of the Directors of the Poor of the several Counties of this Commonwealth. And we are gratified that you have honored this County and this City with your presence and your conventions.

We are away up in one corner, so far removed from the great bulk of the State that we sometimes think we are overlooked. But we rejoice in our inheritance as a part of this great Commonwealth. We rejoice in her varied industries, and in her matchless resources. We rejoice in her great names, in her patriotic sons, and in her sacred history. We have with you a common interest in Independence Hall, Valley Forge and Gettysburg.

This county is not unworthy of a place in the annals of the State. It was here that George Washington came on an historic mission nearly one hundred and fifty years ago. It was here that Anthony Wayne died and was buried. It was here that Commodore Perry built and equipped the fleet with which he went forth and captured the last ship that ever raised a hostile flag upon the Great Lakes. And from here went forth that man who stood, side by side, with Admiral Dewey on the deck of the Olympia and commanded that flagship in Manila Bay on that morning which made the brightest page in the naval history of the world. And here his ashes rest. And so long as heroism in the presence of danger and death is honored among men, so long will be remembered the name of Capt. Charles V. Gridley.

We are glad to have you here because we desire to know the men who hold the purse strings and manage the affairs of all the Counties of this Commonwealth. And we are glad to have you here because we want you to know us. Erie County needs no lengthy commendation. We extend to you the freedom of the County and ask you to look about and judge of us for yourselves. Judge us by our broad fields and fertile valleys ; by our flocks and herds upon a thousand hills ; by our fruit farms and vineyards ; by our cities and villages ; by our broad avenues and beautiful homes ; by our blocks and business houses ; by our manufactories and workshops ; by our railroads and electric car lines ; by our schools, for which our Mayor has fitly spoken, and by our churches ; judge us by our public buildings and charitable institutions ; and by the broad lake that smiles in endless beauty at our feet ; judge us by our harbor and its commerce ; by the intelligence, character, health and hospitality of our people.

It is here, upon the south shore of the lake, where the iron ore brought down from the upper lakes meets in friendly greeting with the coal from Pennsylvania's exhaustless mines.

Here nature smiles gently upon the children of men. This is our home and we love it. We extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that when you depart from us you will be glad you came.

Mr. J. W. Peck, of Somerset, responded to the addresses of welcome as follows :

To the Hon. John Depinet, Mayor of the City, and Hon. Judge Walling :
On behalf of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, I thank each of you for the sincere and cordial welcome to your city and

county. Twice ere this has this Association been graciously welcomed and royally entertained by your hospitable and generous-hearted people. To me your city seems a very fitting and most pleasing place for us to meet. We do not forget that you are living in shadow of one of the most magnificent charitable institutions of modern times, the State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home ; its presence must be a constant object lesson in charity, and teaches us how a grateful people honor and provide for its country's defenders when aged and infirm. In addition to this, you have the Home for Friendless Children, Old People's Home, The Catholic Orphan Asylum and St. Vincent Hospital, sustained and maintained by voluntary contributions of charitable people, and the little ones, the aged and the sick are cared for and maintained by loving and tender hands. The magnificent provision you have made for the poor and unfortunate in life is evidenced by the beautiful, spacious and comfortable almshouse, which stands as a monument just outside the gates of your city, for your charity and generous disposition of heart to your afflicted and unfortunate brethren. We believe by these associations the good influence of your hearts are made more tender for the sufferings of mankind, and consequently you are brought into closer sympathy with the work of this Association.

Your city has truly been named the "Gem City of the Lakes," situated as you are facing the beautiful lake from which your city is named, a great commercial highway whose surface is dotted over with crafts of every description bearing to market the manufactures of your many industries, your many beautiful and comfortable homes, magnificent public buildings, broad and well paved streets, your splendid school buildings and facilities, and last, but not least, your grand, magnificent churches whose spires battle their tops in the blue of Heaven, as well as are reflected in the blue waters of the lake, should surely make you proud of your city, as well as being an interesting place for strangers to visit ; and I voice the sentiment of this Association when I say we are glad to be here.

This is the Silver Anniversary of this Association. The record it has achieved in the reforms it has made in the management of and beautiful appearance of our almshouses, the legislation it has secured in the interest of the poor and suffering humanity, the great change it has wrought in the system of caring for the insane, the splendid institutions for the feeble-minded and chronic insane, have been alone the work of this Association. Besides, it would be impossible to relate the great work accomplished in the better caring for the poor and unfortunate, and the distribution of our charities has made for this Association a name that will live in history.

The duties of a director of the poor while being an arduous and responsible one, is a duty of love, almost without compensation, no improper care impugned to any one. The object of these conventions is to discuss questions pertaining to the management of almshouses, and disposing of questions that trouble us in the administration of our duties, the comparing of notes, and commingling with each other, exchange of thought and ideas, and acquainting ourselves with one another's plans and manner of procedure.

There is associated with this Association, of whom we are all proud of, and who compose a part of the bone and sinew of this convention, the

Children's Aid Society, who will respond for themselves. But allow me to say in behalf of them, as they will be too modest to say it themselves, that we have so much appreciated their presence, their council and their help, that we would be at a loss without them. And with you we are equally glad to see so many with us.

And now, your Honors, in conclusion, permit me again in behalf of this Association to tender to you and through you to the people of Erie city and county, the sincere and heartfelt thanks of all for the generous and cordial welcome you have so graciously given us.

Mr. William Davis, of Cambria, responded as follows, on behalf of the Association of County Commissioners :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen : Upon the principle that "whoso humbleth himself shall be exalted," some one has suggested that I should respond on behalf of the County Commissioners of the State of Pennsylvania, to the cordial addresses of welcome by the Mayor of the City of Erie and the Chief Executive of the County.

I am sensible of this honor, and wish I were more worthy of it, but more sincerely wish that I might so meet its requirements as to express the true spirit and sentiments of the members of this Convention in appreciation of the warm welcome we have received in this city and this county this morning.

I feel a little embarrassed that you should call upon three of the greatest men, in size and appearance and position, and three of the best looking men that you have in the county and State, and then call upon a little fellow to close upon a subject of this kind.

We are glad to meet in the metropolis of northwestern Pennsylvania. It is no doubt the first time that many of us have seen the sights of this part of the State. We are glad that back in the early history of the State our forefathers saw fit to come here and adopt a little patch of ground bordering on Lake Erie, and that we have become members of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are glad to know that the northwestern portions of the State are moving in harmony and in the line of progress and improvement with the other portions of the State, as well as the other States of the Union. We are glad to learn that you have good schools and good institutions, and give employment to thousands of laborers.

We have come here not for the purpose of talking, but for the purpose of doing a work. The County Commissioners of the State of Pennsylvania have a work to perform, and I trust that before we leave here the work we have come together for will be performed.

Conventions are becoming of common, every-day occurrence in the United States. Every trade, every occupation, every profession, hold their conventions. The farmers have their conventions in order to provide for your tables ; the teachers hold conventions in order to discuss the best methods of taking care of children ; the bankers hold their conventions in order to determine how to look after your money ; the dentists hold their conventions in order to determine the best methods of taking care of your teeth : the doctors hold conventions to determine the best methods of taking care of

you; but the County Commissioners of the State meet in convention in order to determine the best methods of taking care of all of you, and doing the greatest amount of good with the least money. They have the responsibility of fixing the taxation upon property, upon the professions, upon the trades and occupations of every one in the State, and the grave responsibility of handling millions upon millions of dollars each year, and they are expected to place it where it will do the greatest amount of good for the people of the State. Hence I say the responsibility placed on the shoulders of the County Commissioners is a greater one than that imposed on the members of any other convention in the State, notwithstanding the fact that the lawyers of the State meet in convention to determine how they can lay their hands on your property after you are dead, and acquire it for themselves. And now since we have come here for work, let us not do like the young man who went to the convention with a clean shirt and a two dollar bill, and never changed either of them while he was there, but let us exchange ideas.

Many of us have been looking forward to the city of Erie as one of the gardens of the United States, wherein the rays of the sun come down at 85 or 90 degrees the year around, and bathing is good three times a day. At least we have been told that some of the members have brought their bathing suits with them—away to the heels, with ruffles around the ankles. I trust that the genial Chief Executive of the city will see to it, that as we will be kept in the halls of this Convention during the day, and as every member will want to see everything in the city and without, we shall expect him, from the manner in which he has received us this morning, to instruct the policemen that we are in possession of the city for four days and four nights of 24 hours each. [Applause.]

We are aware of the fact that we are standing upon a historical spot, and we are glad to visit this place, of which we read in our school days. Our minds have wandered back over the pages of history, which we unwantonly and unwillingly perused under the shadow, and sometimes under the weight of the birch wielded by the brawny arm of the stalwart school master, and are reminded that we are standing this day upon the site where the French built their fort in 1749, and traded with the red men of the forest.

We are pleased to meet in Convention the spot where that child who was born in the State of Rhode Island in the year 1785, who at the age of 27 years, under the direction and authority of the chief executive of this nation hewed out of the forests the timber necessary to build and equip nine vessels and with the aid and assistance of 490 brave and stalwart pioneers, descendants of the Pilgrim fathers, with the thought of loved ones at home in their hearts, and the spirit of freedom carried by life's blood through their veins, launched their vessels upon the waters, sailed across the waters of your inland sea on September 10th, 1813, and in three hours time returned to your port, having captured the entire British fleet of six vessels, 63 guns and over 500 trained seamen, and the message was hurled across the continent to General Harrison, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." And the name of Commodore Perry lives in the hearts and minds of the American people to-day. [Applause.]

We may walk through the National Cemeteries, as we did at Gettysburg two years ago, and look at the beautiful marble, granite and equestrian monuments erected in commemoration of the brave and stalwart heroes who lived and died for this nation: men of power, men of brains, bone and sinew, with the rapid flow of life's blood coursing through their veins, bearing untold burdens and hardships, with the thought of loved ones at home and of the future of their nation, represented by marble, granite, bronze and iron statues. What beautiful monuments! Are they their rewards? No: these are the rewards that have been bequeathed to their families, to their descendants, to the American nation. Their reward is the proud consciousness of doing their duty at all times.

I recall the gallant Lawrence, dying the death of a brave hero, within sight of these grounds, when he said, "Stand by the ship," "Don't give up the ship." I recall to your minds the inspiration from these two brave men, Perry and Lawrence, and ask you to look at their achievements and characters, and see what they have done for you and me.

Well might we take the words of this brave man Lawrence as the watchword of this Convention, "Stand by the ship," and let the members of this Convention stand by the great State of Pennsylvania and see to it that the work they do in the Convention is felt and told throughout the State. [Applause.]

It is in the great events of our country, it is in the great men of our country, that lies the secret of our national unity and national prosperity. We are to congratulate ourselves that the dark, unfathomed, imaginary abyss which lay between the North and the South has been filled with fertile and productive soil.

I remember of hearing of a story of a young couple who had married, thinking that everything in life was bright and that no annoyance could possibly arise, after they had been united in the sacred bond, had found that all things do not move smoothly even in the hymeneal state. They concluded that living together was impossible, for each magnified the little mutual annoyances almost into crimes. The husband with a feeling of generosity consented to a divorce, and being a liberal man, instructed the old family lawyer to divide all the property fairly between them. A list was made out, the values attached, piece by piece, one by one, the other to the other, until all the property was equally shared. As they were about to bid farewell the lawyer stopped them. He said, "There is still one piece of property that you own of which I do not know exactly how to make the division; I will have to ask your advice." "What is it?" they asked. "It is the grave of your little child." For a moment their eyes rested on the lawyer's face, then turned to each other's. The tears were starting; and husband and wife were bound fast in each other's arms, never more to separate.

Even so, ladies and gentlemen, you cannot separate the great dead of this country, the children of the whole nation. You cannot separate Alexander Hamilton from Thomas Jefferson, George Washington from Abraham Lincoln, Jackson from Perry, Grant from Lee, Logan from Stonewall Jackson. Thousands and tens of thousands of the heroes that wore the blue lie beneath the daisies of the South. Thousands and tens of thousands

of the martyrs who wore the gray lie beneath the clover in northern fields. No one will seek to place the dead of the North in a strange country, and no one will dare to place the graves of the southern dead in a foreign land. Across Mason and Dixon's line the hands of our dead lie clasped, and as long as they remain hand in hand, the hands of the living of this country will be united.

When I look upon that banner those bright lines do not mean stripes : they are bands of brotherhood. Whether steeped in the heart's blood of our past or with the white purity of our present peace, all beneath the blue sky of our national unity is illumined by the bright stars of our national glory, and although we are only in our infancy yet the nations of the world bow in obeisance to the stars and stripes as they wave on land and sea.

Great have been the wars of this nation, with foreign nations as well as with our own States, and the various victories have always been ours, in the form of millions of acres of territory and untold and immeasurable wealth. Within the past few months the world has again been electrified, the thunders of Dewey at old Manila, echoing across sea and land, re echoing again upon the rock-bound coast of Santiago, have told the world of the omnipotence of America, of the prowess of the rising republic of the world, and we are making history to day, laying our hand upon the checkered page of human history, leaving an everlasting imprint. The world catches the sound and feels the effects and says "Great and glorious are the sailors of America."

We are aware of the fact that the State of Pennsylvania has the greatest manufacturing industries, with more machinery and more capital invested than any other State in the Union. We know that it contains more mineral wealth than any other State in the Union. Our people have provided colleges, universities, seminaries, normal schools and common schools for the benefit of every child within the State. We also have penal institutions, such as penitentiaries, reform schools and jails for the unruly, and charitable institutions for the poor and unfortunate ; hospitals for the insane, deaf, dumb, blind : schools for the orphans and homes for the old soldiers. Our trade, by means of our lakes, rivers, canals, railroads and across the sea, is equal to if not greater than any other State.

I speak of these things to show that a Convention of the Directors of the Poor and of the Commissioners of such a State is of importance, and should be felt by every person within the State ; but the people are not here to speak for themselves. It is for you here assembled in Convention to speak for them. We know it is not a difficult matter to frame a law and have it placed on the statute books ; we know it is done by people who represent the great Commonwealth, but unfortunately for us many of these laws are framed by men who do not know from practical experience what the demands and needs of the people are, and for that reason I want to impress on your minds that it is your duty, when assembled in Convention as you are to-day, to see that the laws which pertain to the business you represent are properly framed. How often it is that questions come before you, as Commissioners, as to which you have no guide ; how often it is too, that

the Commissioners are confronted with matters upon which we do find laws, and when the questions come before the judicial officers of the State, and when the executive officers are asked to give a decision upon your work which has been done according to your best judgment, the Act of Assembly is declared unconstitutional, and your work goes into the waste basket, and you use your salaries to pay the amount you are surcharged by the county auditors. These are the grave questions that come before you for your consideration in Convention. There is no reason why the great State of Pennsylvania, with her six million people, should not have the best of everything. We are not like the poor unfortunate people on the banks of the Amazon, content to live on cakes moulded from the clay taken from the banks and cooked in the heat of the sun. We are not content to grind our flour between two millstones worked by hand, and out of that make our bread. We are only content when we are fed with the best that the world affords; the best bread, the best meats, the best vegetables, the best clothing, the best churches and schools and manufacturing establishments; surrounded by the greatest luxuries that any nation has known, being the owners of more free homes, and mingling in the best society of any State or nation on God's foot-stool. We are not content with groveling in the mire of degradation and superstition, governed by the narrow and warped views of dukes and monarchs; but we are reaping the harvest of the good and noble deeds of our liberty-loving forefathers, who upon their pilgrimage sought the counsel of Almighty God and prayed that they might be delivered from the shackles of slavery and the bonds of superstition, to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And now, members of the Convention, in conclusion, let us not forget that in addition to the duties to be performed here, we have been asked by our friends at home not to forget them. I don't suppose there is a member here who has not been told by his wife or sister, or some one else's sister, to bring some memento from the great northwestern part of the State. Let us not do like the man did whose wife was a teacher in a model school, and had promised her children she would give them an entertainment, and desirous of giving them the best of everything, she went into the city and searched for the materials but failed to find them. Her husband was going to New York, and she wrote out a full description of the things she wanted and gave to him. He went, and attended to his own business (as every man would), and then thought of his wife's errand, and searched his pockets and found he had lost the paper with her instructions. Knowing it wouldn't be safe to return without complying with her instructions, he wired his wife that he had lost the paper, and to send instructions by message. The next morning the old gentleman was paralyzed upon receiving a telegram reading: "Unto us this day a child is born, four feet by six." [Laughter and applause.]

Mrs. J. L. Anderson, on behalf of the Children's Aid Society, thanked the Mayor of Erie, Hon. Emory A. Walling and others

present for their words of welcome, and expressed the hope that the Convention might be beneficial and pleasant.

President John M. Groff, of Lancaster, spoke as follows :

Ladies and Gentlemen: I first want to congratulate you upon having chosen the City of Erie as your place of meeting. This is the fourth time I have visited this city, and I have fully determined that if ever I should leave old Lancaster county as my home, I would want to come to Erie to live. [Applause.]

Since I have heard the welcome extended to us by his Honor, Judge Walling, and by the Mayor of Erie, I feel that while we are here the city belongs to us. I also feel that we will enjoy ourselves here as much as I hope we will profit by this Convention. To the Directors of the Poor I want to thank you for the honor that you have conferred upon me in naming me as your officer to preside over this important Convention. I say important, because within the borders of the State there is no convention meets in which the delegates have so responsible a position as the Directors of the Poor. If there is any convention more important, it will be the joint Convention of the Directors of the Poor and Charities, and of the County Commissioners, because in our work the county commissioners are really the power behind the throne. I say to the Directors of the Poor that your work is important, and in all your discussions I wish you would bear in mind that when you increase taxation to take care of your charities, you depreciate the value of the charities in proportion. When the Legislature, in 1889, passed the law providing for the paying of the expenses of the Directors of the Poor in attending these Conventions, they intended that this Convention should act as an Advisory Board to the Legislature in passing Acts necessary for the maintenance of the various charities, and if you fail to attend to that part of your duty, you are violating the spirit of the law.

Now, what matters should receive our attention in relation to legislation? It is a well-known fact that our insane institutions are crowded to overflowing, and that it is almost impossible to get an insane pauper into a suitable institution, and I would like this Convention to confer with one another and find out whether it is advisable for each poor district to erect and maintain institutions for the care of their own insane, and I think it important that this Convention appoint a committee to confer with the State Board of Charities or the Committee on Lunacy, and if it is approved or disapproved, let us go home and stand by the legislation that is recommended, and secure it, whether we are Republicans or Democrats. I might say that there is another matter, with reference to feeble minded children, that I think should be attended to by this Convention. Before the new institution was built at Polk, we were promised that when that institution was completed, our representation should be increased, but it has been built, and we find the same crowded condition in Elwin and other institutions as existed before, and instead of being able to get any more feeble-minded children into these institutions, we find ourselves no better off. Now, if there is one class of pau-

pers that deserve our attention particularly, it is the feeble-minded children, and this matter we should attend to.

I mention these two matters because my attention has been called to them by the representatives from the various districts.

Another matter is the Ladies' Aid Society. In my judgment it is one of the most important branches of this Convention, and deserves great consideration, but there seems to be a general misunderstanding as to the duties and the original idea of the Association, and in fact it has been suggested by some to whom I have talked, that the different county institutions employ a matron to attend to the pauper children. I think that a discussion in this Convention by the Society would be profitable for the Convention; explaining the original idea and the working of the institution.

And to the County Commissioners, I will say: Gentlemen of that Convention, all the work we have been doing depends upon you; our work has been arduous, and yet you are the power behind the throne. Upon you depends the success or failure of our efforts.

It is your duty, as guardian of the purse of the taxpayers, to aid us in our efforts to keep down expenses, and afford the best accommodations to the paupers, and the least expense. Without you we are helpless. I hope that your joint session here to-morrow will be devoted to the discussion of subjects that will help you and help us. I again thank you all.

Col. E. P. Gould, (Erie), announced an excursion to Niagara Falls, on Thursday, for the two Conventions. A rising vote was taken on the question of whether the excursion should be attempted, which resulted in the affirmative, and the Chair appointed as a committee Col. E. P. Gould, (Erie), James W. Barker, (Delaware), C. S. Snyder, (Philadelphia), Robert Smiley, (Allegheny), J. W. Peck, (Somerset), and H. W. Graybill, (Lancaster), to secure names.

The following invitation was read to the Convention from Major W. W. Tyson, to visit the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, at the pleasure of the Convention:

October 1, 1899.

Hon. John M. Groff, President Poor Directors Association, (Erie, Pa.)

Dear Sir:—I have the honor to extend a cordial invitation to yourself, the officers and members of your association, to visit the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home at such time during your visit to the City of Erie as may suit your convenience.

Very truly yours,

WM. W. TYSON,

Commander.

Upon motion of Mr. Charles Snyder, of Philadelphia, the invitation was accepted, and 4 o'clock P. M. to-morrow, was fixed as the time for making the visit.

The following program, as presented by the Committee, was adopted :

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1899, at 10 o'clock A. M., the Association will meet in the Court House, and will be called to order by John M. Groff, Esq., President of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania. Music by select choir. Prayer—Rev. B. Canfield Jones, D. D., Erie. Address of Welcome on part of the City of Erie, Hon. John Depinet, Mayor of City. Address of Welcome on part of Erie County, Hon. Emory A. Walling, Erie, Pa. Response—Samuel Wickersham, Chester, Pa., for Association Directors of the Poor. Response—William Davis, for Association County Commissioners, Cambria. Response on part of Childrens' Aid Society—Mrs. F. B. Reed, Clearfield. President's Address—John M. Groff, Esq., Lancaster.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES. On call of the counties, each Board of Directors, Trustees of Institutions, or Delegates of any society, will hand to the Secretary a list of its delegates present, with their addresses. After enrollment of delegates the members of the Association of County Commissioners will withdraw to the hall in which they will hold their sessions.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES. Committee on Officers ; Committee on Finances and Auditing of Accounts ; Committee on Place of Meeting ; Committee on Resolutions ; Committee on Legislation ; Committee on Program and Delegates to National Conference will be appointed by the President-elect, and published in the proceedings. Adjournment, 12 M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 P. M. Music. New business. Miscellaneous business. Announcement of Committees. Reports—Allegheny County Home, Beaver County, Fayette County, Delaware County, Children's Aid Society of Venango County and Elk County, Directors of the Poor, Mercer County. Discussion—"*Immigration and the Necessity of more Stringent Laws*," Razell E. James, Delaware. Paper—"*The Children's Aid Society as a Benefactor to Children*," Mrs. Parker Blood, Jefferson. Paper—"*Hospitals for the Insane, their Work, Results and Cause of Increase in Insanity*," Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, Sec. of Com. on Lunacy, Philadelphia. Discussion—"*Out-Door Relief, Physicians' and Undertakers' Bills during Epidemics*," —J. S. Strine, Lancaster. Discussion—"*Present System of Removal of Paupers from one District to another without a chance of being heard by the authorities to whom pauper is sent*," Joseph M. Force, Esq., Erie, Pa. Discussion—"*Is a Farm of primary importance to the successful management of an Almshouse*," James Miller, Mercer.

EVENING SESSION, 7.30 P. M. Music. Prayer—Rev. W. K. Crosby, Erie, Miscellaneous Business. Reports—Chester County, Montgomery County, Scranton City Home, Philadelphia (Blockly), Somerset County, Franklin County, C. A. S. of Crawford County, Indiana County. Paper—"*The Work of the Children's Aid Society for Dependent Children*," Mrs. J. L. Anderson,

Pittsburgh. Address—“*Retrospective View of our Charitable Institutions after Twenty Years*,” R. D. McGonnigle, Pittsburgh. Address—“*The Necessity of Establishing a Hospital in Western Pennsylvania for Epileptics*,” P. H. Bridenbaugh, Blair County. Paper—“*State Appropriations to Charities*,” Hon. E. P. Gould, Esq., Erie.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 8.30 A. M. Joint session of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, and Association of County Commissioners. Meeting will be called to order by R. F. Hopwood, Esq., President of Association of County Commissioners. Music. Prayer—Rev. F. S. Spaulding, Erie. Address to Convention—R. F. Hopwood, Esq., President of Association of County Commissioners of Fayette County. Reports—Butler County, C. A. S. of Elk County, Allegheny County, Directors of the Poor of Dauphin County, Delaware County, Westmoreland County. Question for discussion—“*Should the Office of Director of the Poor be merged into the Office of County Commissioner?*” Gaylord Smith, Crawford. Discussion—“*Who is and should be Financially Responsible for Payment of Boarding, Clothing, and Care of Dependent Children, and Visiting Expenses by Children's Aid Society?*” E. N. Bigger, Esq., Beaver County. Discussion—“*Should Tramps be Tolerated or Encouraged? Effect of the Vagrant Laws*,” Ed R. Long, Esq., Montgomery. Discussion—“*Present System of Auditing the Accounts of County Commissioners and Directors of the Poor, Abuse, Misuse and Extent of Authority*,” W. C. Cress, Esq., Lock Haven. Discussion—“*The Payment of Bills for Insane at State Hospitals, Reform Schools, etc. Should the same be done by County Commissioners or Directors of the Poor?*” James Q. McGiffin, Washington County.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 2 P. M. Music. New Business. Miscellaneous Business. Report of Committee on Nomination of Officers. Report of Committee on Place of Holding next Meeting. Report of Auditing and Finance Committees. Report of Institutions—Feeble-Minded School at Polk, Pa., Home for Friendless Children at Erie, Pa., Northern Home for Friendless Children at Philadelphia, Pa., Bethesda Home, at Pittsburgh, Pa., Children's Aid of Western Pennsylvania, Children's Aid of Philadelphia, Directors' Report of Washington County, Blair County and York County. Paper—“*The Curfew Law and its Effect on Children*,” Mrs. Roger Sherman, Crawford. Discussion—“*Should Corporations Employing Foreigners be Financially Responsible for their Families for a certain time after Wage-Earner is discharged*.” Opened by James Moore, Cambria. Paper—“*Qualifications, Duties and Responsibilities of Directors of Poor and Steward of Home*,” M. Shumaker, Somerset. Discussion—“*The Proper Subject for Admission to Almshouse*,” opened by Louis Tisch, Luzerne. Discussion—“*The Best Means of Disposing of Traveling Paupers who are trying to get to their Former Place of Residence*,” William M. Brown, Blair. Paper—“*The Legal Right and Authority over Children Placed in Care of Children's Aid Society*,” H. W. Ochse, Allegheny County. Discussion—“*Relation of Intemperance to Pauperism, and Effects on Children*,” Fred. K. Fuller, Lackawanna.

The enrollment of delegates was here proceeded with.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy, H. W. Ochse, Robert Smiley, Samuel W. Lea.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny Department of Charities*—William P. Hunker, Robert D. McGonnigle.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Alms house*—Geo. T. Trail, Joseph Penrose, W. W. Cessna, J. D. Tewell, Mrs. J. D. Tewell.

BLAIR COUNTY—*Alms house*—Wm. M. Brown, Mrs. H. E. Brown, P. H. Bridenbaugh, Mrs. C. H. Bridenbaugh.

CAMBRIA COUNTY—*Alms house*—Thomas L. Jones, James Moore, Thomas J. Hughes.

CARBON AND LUZERNE COUNTIES—*Middle Coal Field Poor District*—William S. Leib, S. W. Gangwell.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Alms house*—John Luther Smith.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Alms house*—O. P. Blakeslee, W. C. Graham.

DAUPHIN COUNTY—*Alms house*—Isaac S. Hoffman, W. Scott Stook, Joseph Earley, William Look, G. A. L. Row.

DELAWARE COUNTY—*Alms house*—Razell E. James, Newton P. West, James W. Barker.

ERIE COUNTY—*Alms house*—J. H. Osborne, J. Herrington, P. A. Myers, E. P. Gould, J. M. Force.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Alms house*—J. M. Bates, Clark Hagerty, S. D. Newcomer, Mrs. S. D. Newcomer, Mrs. Hugh Rankin, Mrs. Chas. Smith.

GREENE COUNTY—*Alms house*—J. S. Porter, D. P. Johnson, Randolph Scott, D. M. Thompson.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY—*Alms house*—C. K. Horton, Robert Mason, J. S. Appleby.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Blakely Poor House*—B. J. Lynch, J. N. Lillibridge, E. A. Imes.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Carbondale City Poor House*—Edwin Moon and wife, John J. Connell and wife, A. F. Cook.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Hillside Farm Poor House*—Frederick Fuller, W. A. Paine, M. D., F. J. Dickert, P. J. Murphy and wife, Geo. W. Beemer and wife, John F. Scragg and wife, Mrs. W. F. Langstaff, C. J. Gillespie.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Alms house*—H. W. Graybill, Jacob S. Strine, M. H. Grube, Joseph Frouz, Frederick Shoff, C. L. Nissley, William Good, J. M. Groff.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Alms house*—Davilla Donmoyer, Samuel Dissenger, John B. Fisher, John H. Light.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—S. W. Davenport, Louis Fisch, C. A. Westfield, J. H. Oplinger, Geo. H. Butler, E. J. Butler, M. D.

MERCER COUNTY—*Alms house*—James Miller, H. D. Moses, John Kelly, James S. Wallace, Mrs. James S. Wallace.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Alms house*—Wm. H. Kuder, A. D. Alderfer.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Coal Township Poor House*—Henry Parry, D. W. Zaring, W. S. Heil, Harry E. Zaring, W. W. Ryon, Chas. Berry.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Germantown*—David Harmer.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Oxford and Lower Dublin*—Charles S. Snyder and wife.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*County Home*—J. W. Peck, Manasses Shumaker, Mrs. M. Shumaker, L. C. Colborn.

WARREN COUNTY—*Alms house*—John F. Rounel, W. J. Mead, H. M. Preston, H. C. Preston.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*County Home*—W. A. Gabby, Thos. Griffith, D. W. Myers, John Wilson, Mrs. L. A. Wilson, W. K. Lysle, Mrs. J. A. Lysle.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Alms house*—Wm. H. Evans, N. M. Weller, J. R. Hayden, David Walton, Wm. Stoner, W. C. Evans.

YORK COUNTY—*Alms house*—Jacob Diehl, Isaiah Givens, Robert Boyd, J. B. Kain, M. D.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES—Geo. W. Starr, Erie.

COMMITTEE ON LUNACY—Henry M. Wetherill, Secretary.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. H. L. Rankin, Mrs. R. Sherman, Mrs. E. C. Hoag, Mrs. E. P. Neill, Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Chester Co., Mrs. Elizabeth B. Passmore, Chester Co.

After the enrollment of the delegates who presented themselves, the Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M., to meet at the Parish House of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Held at the Parish House of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The Convention was called to order at 2 P. M. by President Groff, who announced the following Committees :

Officers.

W. H. GUY.....	Allegheny
J. W. BAKER.	Delaware
JAMES MOORE.....	Cambria
SARAH GIVENS.....	York
ELIZABETH NEIL.	Crawford

Finance and Auditing.

FRED. FULLER.....	Scranton
J. W. PECK.....	Somerset
J. L. SMITH.....	Chester

Place of Meeting.

JOHN F. SCRAGG.....	Scranton
LEWIS TISCH.....	Wilkesbarre
J. L. STRINE.....	Lancaster
CLARKE HAGGERTY.....	Fayette
WM. M. BROWN.....	Blair

Resolutions.

E. P. GOULD.....	Erie
MRS. H. L. RANKIN.....	Fayette
J. L. ROW.....	Dauphin
MRS. LYDIA WALTON.....	Chester
C. S. SNYDER.....	Philadelphia

Legislation.

J. HOWARD MORRISON.....	Philadelphia
S. W. DAVENPORT.....	Luzerne
H. W. GRAYBILL.....	Lancaster
L. C. COLBORN.....	Somerset
FRED. F. FLEITZ.....	Lackawanna

Col. E. P. Gould announced that an invitation had been sent to the Convention to visit the Home of the Friendless and the Old Ladies' Home, Erie. It was agreed to visit this Home this afternoon at 4 P. M.

President Groff called for the reports from Counties, and the reading of reports was proceeded with, Mr. Lee reading the report of the Allegheny County Home, and Mr. N. P. West that of Delaware County. The report of Fayette County Home was also read.

Topics for discussion was here called for, and Mr. Newton P. West, of Delaware County, opened the discussion on "Immigration and the Necessity for More Stringent Laws."

Mr. West: At a very late hour I was requested to prepare a paper on this subject, as Mr. James was unable to do so. It is a subject that can scarcely be treated intelligently in so short a paper as this. Our time is limited, and no paper, I think, ought to cover more than ten minutes, and if this covers more than that I hope you will ask me to stop. We all know this is a subject which even the politicians of both parties have hesitated to touch upon.

Mr. West here proceeded with the reading of the following paper, which was received with applause:

IMMIGRATION AND THE NECESSITY FOR MORE STRINGENT LAWS.

The topic assigned the speaker is one, that to do justice to, volumes might be written, but in a brief paper such as this only the faintest hints can be given. It would be well therefore to state at this time, briefly the most recent legislation on the subject of immigration, and then take into consideration some of the most important factors of the principles of immigration. The latest laws are those of 1891, and say that the following classes of aliens shall be excluded from admission in the United States in accordance with the existing acts regulating immigration, other than those concerning Chinese laborers.

1. All idiots, insane persons.
2. Paupers or persons likely to become a public charge.
3. Persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease.
4. Persons who have been convicted of a felony, except political offense.
6. Polygamists.

Social problems change from age to age. It is from this standpoint that the phenomena of emigration and immigration become of a lively concern to the communities which they affect. It is not the migration of a few thousand or even million human beings from one part of the world to another nor their good or bad fortune that is of interest to us. We are concerned with the effect of such a movement on the community at large and its growth in civilization. Immigration, for instance, means the constant infusion of new blood into the American Commonwealth, and the question is: What effect will this new blood have upon the character of the community?

In short, we must set up our standard of what we desire this nation to be, and then consider whether the policy we have hitherto pursued in regard to immigration is calculated to maintain that standard or to endanger it. The continued addition to our electorate of hundreds of thousands of persons who have had no training in self government, who have other and quite different traditions of State action—will this not tend to weaken our political capacity and self reliance?

Excessive immigration may overstock the labor market and reduce wages; or immigrants accustomed to fewer of the comforts of life may supplant the native workmen. In either case we have brought undue pressure to bear on the mass of the people and have forced them down to a lower level. We have substituted the lower for the higher, and preferred that which is inferior. These elements gradually become dominant and as we see the decay of habitudes which we had valued.

The problems of social science are very complex. The manifestations of social life are so interwoven that it is difficult to trace the connection between them. Even where one influence can be disentangled from others, it is almost impossible to measure its exact effect. The result may be neither direct nor immediate. It may manifest itself only through secondary phenomena or after the lapse of some years. It is impossible to reach exact conclusions, however sure we may be that the conclusions are certain. The very characteristics of a science, the exact classification and the power to predict results, may often be painfully lacking.

In no department of social science is this more true than in the entire range of questions pertaining to population. We readily perceive that one population differs from another, and we are able in a very general way to characterize the difference. We can often see that national traits are changing with the passage of time, and we can indicate in a general way the direction of the evolution. But to define the difference precisely, or to specify the exact cause of the change, is beyond our power. We feel instinctively that such and such elements are incompatible with our social life, but we are not able to produce the technical proof.

It has been shown that the nations of the world are actively asserting their right to regulate the admission or continued residence of aliens in their territory. The strict legal right of each nation to do this is not seriously disputed. It is well, however, to carry the investigation one step further, and inquire how the right to restrict migration is looked upon from the standpoint of the comity of nations and of a theoretical political science which is not governed by considerations of mere temporary expediency.

And first, in regard to the right of migration as a question of theoretical international law : How are we to interpret the practice and declarations of nations? The various facts already displayed in the history of emigration and immigration and the legislation at present in force will enable us to deduce the following result :

Freedom of migration is no natural, inherent right of the individual. It is merely an historical right of very recent origin, never universally recognized, and at the present moment undergoing restriction rather than expansion. Human history has already gone through two stages on this question and is standing on the threshold of a third. These three stages are, the mediæval, the French revolutionary and the modern socialistic.

All mediæval life denied by its very constitution any right of the individual to migrate or to choose his own domicile. Social relations regulated by status could not permit individuals to withdraw at their own will, nor find a place for strangers not members of the local community. This is abundantly illustrated in any study of the position of strangers during the whole mediæval period. The English merchant was often prohibited "going beyond seas." The foreign merchant in England was obliged to seek the special protection of the king. Aliens occupied a suspicious position and were liable to be plundered or imprisoned in return for wrongs done the citizen of the country abroad. In Germany there existed the so-called *Wildfangsrecht*, by which a stranger could be reduced to the position of a serf. It was the rule that the strange air made the man unfree, and unless he belonged of status to the class of the privileged, he sank into that of the dependant. Police considerations required that a man should not entertain a stranger unless he were willing to be responsible for him. In other cases, a man could not withdraw from the community except by paying a fine which indemnified it for the loss ; and often he could not settle in another community without paying a fine for the privilege of settling. All these restrictions are characteristic of the petty relations of mediæval life.

Even after the city and provincial relations of early mediæval times began to broaden out into the national life of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the stranger was still looked upon with dislike. In commerce he was a rival, as witness the navigation acts of Cromwell and Charles II. Nations were often engaged in war, and monarchs looked upon the emigration of their subjects as decreasing their military strength. In manufactures it was feared that artisans might carry the secrets of trade to other countries. The growth of the system of legal poor relief made each community examine every accession to the population with jealous eye lest it should add to the burden. The English "Act of Settlement" did not hesitate to prohibit migration from parish to parish, and down to very recent years it was the undoubted right of every city in Germany to refuse settlement to a stranger unless he could prove that he had property or the means of earning his livelihood. In none of these cases was there supposed to be any right of the individual. It was a question for the community, whether it was willing to receive him or not.

The second stage was that which received the impress of the French Revolution, and which may be termed the period of individualism. Two factors worked together to destroy the restrictions of the old regime. One was the expansion of industry and commerce, which burst the narrow bonds of petty city and provincial life and strove to become national and international; the other was the revolutionary philosophy with its doctrine of individual liberty and equality. The introduction of machinery and manufacturing on a larger scale, which resulted in the so-called factory system of modern times, destroyed the restrictions which bound a man to a certain trade and locality. The mediaeval guilds with their numberless regulations and privileges gave way before the demand for large numbers of unskilled laborers to work at the machine. The apprenticeship of seven years, which had been required before a man could engage in an industry, was no longer necessary, and fell away. Women and children were employed in increasing numbers, and the abundant supply of labor thus obtained rendered nugatory the old regulations, drew laborers from other localities, and thus destroyed the restrictions on free migration which were connected with poor relief and the petty financial interests of narrow communal life.

So in a precisely similar way, the expansion of commerce removed internal custom duties, river tolls and prohibitions and hindrances of all sorts, and even in international trade led to greater reciprocity or to partial or entire free trade. When commerce became international, the foreign merchant was allowed the privilege of coming and going, of residence, of protection of property and finally practically all the rights and privileges which the citizens enjoyed, except political rights. Freedom of travel and domicile were thus introduced, the passport system became for the most part a formality, and the old discriminations against aliens were abandoned. The natural corollary of the modern system of industry and commerce is freedom of occupation, of travel and of domicile; just as the natural consequence of the mediaeval relations of status was the immobility of the individual.

The "natural rights" doctrine of the French Revolution has given a philosophic basis to this system of freedom of migration.

In the first place, we must disabuse ourselves of the notion that freedom of migration rests upon any right of the individual. It is simply a privilege granted by the state, the product of circumstances, the result of expediency. The State, therefore, that conferred the liberty may also withdraw it. The State that feels a loss of strength by emigration may forbid its inhabitants leaving the country. The State that suffers injury from immigration may put restrictions on persons coming to its shores—may keep them out altogether if it so choose. The individual has no rights at all in the premises. Although he may possibly elude the watchfulness of the government that is trying to detain him, he cannot compel another State to receive him. What ever may be his position towards his home government, as to the foreign State, he has absolutely no rights. Any privileges that he may enjoy rest on diplomatic agreement, or on the legislation of the receiving State, not on any virtue residing in him. The individual has no right to force himself into a territory where he is not wanted.

There is one argument which is appealed to whenever it is proposed to restrict immigration to America. It is a wide-spread sentimental feeling that America has always been the home of the poor, the refuge of the oppressed of all nations. It is felt that we have always held our doors open, and that it is a betrayal of duty to shut them the moment we feel inconvenienced by our missionary work. I conceive there is a double misunderstanding here. In the first place, our fathers, when they spoke of this country as the "asylum of the oppressed," meant that here should be a refuge from religious and political oppression. They meant that this should be the land of freedom, that all who came here should have liberty of opinion, of speech, etc. This country has on the whole remained faithful to this proclamation. Religious and political refugees of all nations have flocked hither, and we have not only extended protection to the newcomers, but have admitted them to a full share in the government itself. Our fathers did not mean that we were to be an asylum for the paupers, the convicts and the cripples of all nations. They did not mean asylum in the modern, limited signification of the word. It is true that many of the early immigrants were indentured as servants and obliged to work out their passage money after they came; but we do not find but that the colonists took the true view of these comers. They received them on account of the dearth of labor, but they would gladly have had better.

The extension of this legislation is only a question of the pressure exerted by immigration. If it remains where it is or decreases, we shall probably remain satisfied with our present measures. If it should increase or deteriorate in character, more drastic measures will be proposed. Our example in regard to the Chinese has already been followed by the Australians and British Columbians, and England and France show a disposition to legislate against the incoming of poor foreign workmen. It is not probable that any country will protest against the principle that each nation has the right to regulate the matter for itself, although the countries of Europe may demand reciprocity of treatment among themselves.

The right to restrict or prohibit immigration is based ultimately on sovereignty of a State over its own territory. It can suffer no abatement of that sovereignty on the part of other States, and still less on the part of individuals, except by international agreement. That the consensus of civilized nations will allow a large measure of freedom of intercourse and of trade and even of settlement there is no doubt. The demands of modern life secure that. And so far as the evils of indiscriminate immigration are concerned, the practical rule is already coming to be recognized that it is not a friendly act on the part of other nations to allow the emigration of persons whom the receiving State does not consider desirable additions to its population. In practice no State would defend the right to ship its convicts or paupers to another State, or disregard the protest of that other State. And out of this practical rule will there not finally be developed the general principle that each nation is bound to provide for its own unfortunates? They are a part of that society the whole of which constitutes the State. They are as much its citizens as their more fortunate neighbors. Out

of the abundance of civilization there must come provisions for its weaknesses. We cannot retain only that which is good and cast that which is maimed into outer darkness.

And after all is it not a higher ideal, not only of international comity but also of humanity, that each nation should provide for its own failures rather than attempt to transfer the duty to some other nation? If there be no room for them, let them be sent away with at least some provision for starting in the new country, so that they shall not be a total burden. Emigration has not proven a remedy either for overpopulation or for widespread poverty and distress. There remains the attempt to better the condition of the poor home. Modern socialistic legislation in its effort to improve the sanitary surroundings of the laboring classes in home and factory, by its provision for education and culture, by its insurance against old age, accident and sickness, is slowly weaving a web about the workman which will bind him more closely to his native country. It is possible that this will provide for those whom no man desires, while leaving sufficient freedom to the stronger and more enterprising to work out their own destiny. Freedom of international intercourse and movement will thus be preserved, while the hardships and evils of the present unguided, ignorant and capricious migration will be prevented.

President Groff called for remarks on the paper read by Mr. West.

L. C. Colborn, (Somerset): The paper read by Mr. West, of Delaware, is a very able paper. It is a question that this Association has been much interested in. They have passed resolution after resolution calling upon Congress to pass more stringent immigration laws. Col. Stone, now Governor of the State, once met with us at York and explained a measure that he had presented to Congress and was endorsed by this Association. It seems to me we ought to give expression to this able paper and pass a resolution again calling upon Congress to pass a restrictive law in regard to immigration. It would be a great benefit to this country, if that law was passed. I don't think it right for this Convention to let a paper of that kind go unnoticed, and without expressing our sentiments on the question.

Mr. James Moore, (Cambria): I haven't prepared anything to say, but I can endorse every word in that paper. But it didn't give the remedy. We have laws now to restrict immigration of those liable to become paupers, but very likely it is not always carried out. There ought to be some means by which when

those people become dependent there would be a fund to keep their families. The alien law was declared unconstitutional, and I am not lawyer enough to know whether there could be an arrangement made whereby the employer would be held responsible for those that he employed of that class and retain a certain percentage of the wages and have it put into a fund, so that when such people become dependent, that money could be used to keep their families. We have a case of that kind in our district, where I suppose the man was all right when he came to this country, and he went to work and had about \$60, and went to an adjoining town to pay a store bill, and never returned; and now we have to keep his wife and six children, the oldest but nine years old, and they will be a charge on us for years to come. Now, if we had a fund to keep such children, it would be a good thing.

Col. Gould, (Erie): This is a subject that has engaged the attention of the statesmen of this country for many years, and various propositions have been made by those who have spent the most time in considering it, and yet no proposition has been so formulated that it has become a law. Various suggestions have been made that seem to reach the evil in some ways, and I think one of the best remedies proposed is that no emigrant shall be landed on our shores and permitted to become a citizen who has not passed an examination, and received a certificate from the Consul of this country in the country from which he came. In that way it would be thrown on the representatives of the United States in the foreign countries to make examinations, and I think it a good plan. It is impossible for this Association to formulate and present to Congress a law or a plan by which they could be restricted. This able paper that has been read—able in the thoughts presented, and able in the manner of its presentation, is worth a good deal, and it should go on record, and should show to the representatives in Congress that it has received our hearty endorsement, and I move you that this Convention heartily endorse the paper.

The motion of Col. Gould is agreed to.

Mr. M. Shumaker, (Somerset), being called upon, read the following paper on :

QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND STEWARDS OF HOMES.

Mr. President, Ladies, Gentlemen, Members of the Association : It is said that some people are born with honors, others seek after them, and still others that honors are thrust upon. I feel under the present occasion that I would come under the latter class. Without solicitation, without notice, or without request, I was notified that a subject had been assigned me by the Program Committee for a paper, and wound up by saying, "see that you are there to respond."

I feel very much like the soldier who was placed in the stocks for some minor offense by a junior officer, and when discovered by the superior officer who inquired what he was there for, on being told, replied, "Why they can't put you here for that," when the soldier replied with an oath, "Ain't I here?" Without questioning the authority of Brother Colborn, I concluded it was better to obey than to run, and therefore I am here to at least give my views and opinions on the subject of "Qualifications and Responsibilities of the Directors of the Poor and of the Stewards of our County Homes."

These are things of which a great deal might be said, but for the present occasion it is well enough to be brief, as everyone will at once see the importance of having well qualified directors of the poor. On the director depends in a great measure the comfort and welfare of the unfortunate persons who occupy our county homes. The director should be a man of sound judgment, for on him lies the duty of selecting the stewards or superintendents of these institutions. The wise selection of a steward is among the most important duties a director has to perform, for if a mistake is made here, the inmates will always suffer accordingly. The steward should be a man of good business qualifications, sound judgment, kind and generous, yet firm as adamant. On the steward in a great measure depends the proper government of the home, and the comfort and welfare of its inmates. The steward should visit every room in the institution every day, and see that they are properly ventilated and kept clean and free from smell. He should see that the inmates are bathed frequently and kept clean, and have their clothing kept clean and in proper repair. He should not spare disinfectants about the place wherever necessary. In short, he should keep an eagle eye on everything under his charge, and act promptly on everything that requires his attention.

Where a farm is connected with the Home, as there is at most of our county homes, the steward should also be a good practical farmer, as he will then be able to see that part of the business properly done.

The director who votes for a man for steward simply because he is a relative or friend, as is frequently the case, and not because he is the best man

that can be induced to accept the place, has not the proper qualifications for the office he holds.

The director should be of a generous disposition and able to differentiate between the impostor or poor house bum, and the unfortunate who is deserving of the county's bounty. He should possess good business qualifications, so as to be able to wisely expend the funds at his disposal. While the director must keep a vigilant eye on the money placed at his command, he must withhold nothing within the bounds of good business methods and strict economy that would enhance the comfort and welfare of the inmates under his care.

The unfortunate who becomes a charge upon the county is but an object of pity after we have done the best we can for him. We sometimes hear the remark that this or that inmate does not deserve any sympathy, as he was brought to his present condition through faults of his own; but that, I take it, does not debar him from our sympathy, our charity, and our tenderest care. The fact that the inmate is placed under the directors' care is sufficient reason that he should put forth his best efforts to smooth his pathway to the grave. The director is responsible to the citizens who elected him for any duty pertaining to his office. If he fails to perform his duties faithfully and conscientiously, he is responsible to the taxpayers who supply the funds and he is responsible to his God if he fails to heed the injunction: "The poor ye have always with you; ye can do good unto them if you will." After the director has performed his official duties conscientiously and to the best of his ability, his name may not go thundering down the ages as having performed great deeds, but he may hear the more welcome news of "Well done, faithful servant; come up higher."

Charles Snyder, (Philadelphia): I think this is a very important paper as regards the duties of Directors of the Poor and of Stewards. It used to be that in the selection of a director of the poor, one of the old stand-bys in the county was picked out and was continued in for a term of years, and his usefulness increased every year. Of late years I find it is more a political matter, and that directors hardly ever serve more than a term or two. The change of stewards is one of the worst things that can be done in a public institution. When you get a good man there he should be kept. He should not be turned out by any political influence. I know in the institution I have represented for a great many years, we kept a man in there until political influence put him out, and they put another man there, and he was determined to put every one to the severe test of coming right under him; and the whole institution would have been destroyed, but the people arose in their might and put that man out, and now

we are going along all right. If a man is not faithful to the trust imposed upon him, turn him out whoever he is, but let us all look to the interests of the institution. We have the care of the poor in our hands, and we will be held accountable therefor. [Applause.]

Mr. J. S. Wallace, (Mercer), being called for responded as follows: I have been Steward of our Home for four years; I would like to stay one year more if they would like to keep us there. I don't think it needs a politician for the steward of an almshouse. I think he has enough to do to attend to his duties as a steward without attending to politics. How much kindness and how much firmness should be manifested is governed largely by the natural make-up of the steward. It is something that must come naturally. I think the duties of the matron are as great or greater than those of the steward. I think the duties of Mrs. Wallace in our Home are more burdensome and tiresome than mine. We feel that we have been successful in the management of our Home, and we are glad to have those interested in such matters visit us.

Mr. J. L. Smith, (Chester), is called for by the President, and responds as follows: I think this matter has been so ably discussed it is useless for me to take your time. I know there is not a good qualification that a man can possess, but what can be utilized as steward of an almshouse, and even more devolves on the matron; and the best women in the land are the ones that should fill those positions. They are the poorest paid class of people employed in the country, for the work that they do in caring for the unfortunate poor. Such people are only children grown to mature years, in many cases, and they need the tender hand of a thoughtful, sympathetic woman. Women attend more to details than men; they appreciate the needs of these poor people better. Our directors may be the best of men in their positions, and yet if our stewards do not carry out their instructions and attend to the details of the Home management, it is of little avail. It nearly all depends on the energy and faithfulness of the steward and matron. [Applause.]

Mr. P. H. Bridenbaugh, (Blair), is called upon and says:

I don't know that I have much to say as to the duties of stewards, but I think from the way this work has been growing in the State and the fact that the County-Care Act has brought more work on many stewards that he can no longer be called a steward, but he is a superintendent. We have stewards in large hotels, and on dining cars on the railroads. I think a man who has charge of a county home in the State of Pennsylvania, now, particularly where he has insane to look after, is a superintendent. He not only has to look after what they shall eat but he has to superintend everything connected with the home. If he is not the superintendent and recognized as such there will not be harmony in the institution, or proper progress. He should be recognized as the superintendent, the same as the superintendent of a State hospital. He should be a man capable of knowing, when papers are submitted to him for the admission of inmates whether or not they are proper persons to be received, and particularly where papers for insane patients are submitted, and to know whether they have been properly filled out and whether or not the person belongs to the district. A man who has this additional work heaped upon him, of the care of the insane, he should be relieved of the former necessary qualification of a steward, that he is an excellent farmer and good plowman. Not of the knowledge of those matters, but he should not be expected to go out and cut the wheat crop and dig potatoes. He has no time for that, with his added duties. I don't believe all the stewards of the State are keeping pace with our work, though the Directors may all mean well, they do not send their stewards here. I believe Somerset county takes as great interest in this Association as any county in the State, but I have yet to meet their steward or their superintendent in these conventions. I think he ought to have the benefit of this work. And this is true of many counties. They should be allowed to keep pace with our work. I am thankful to the Directors of Blair that they have always urged me to come and meet with you. Our work is growing and we are caring for a number of insane. I therefore speak from experience, and with feeling on this subject. [Applause.]

Mr. L. C. Colborn, (Somerset). I am not a steward nor a Director of the Poor, yet it has been my fortune, or misfortune, to be imposed upon the Directors of my county as their solicitor for the past 13 or 14 years. My observation at the County Home teaches me that its success largely depends on the steward. Brother Bridenbaugh has stated that he has never noticed our steward here. Prior to the last three years the steward was always with us, when Brother Bridenbaugh was not a member of this Association. In our county we have both a Steward of the Home and a Superintendent of the Hospital, under the County Care Act ; also a farmer, and they don't require the steward or the superintendent to plow the fields or hoe the corn. The superintendent, if you choose to call him that, ought to superintend, and if he cannot, he isn't fit for a steward or a superintendent. The duties of an almshouse management require the constant services of a steward. He should be a disciplinarian ; able through love and kindness to enforce every rule. I see many things in our own Institution that do not meet my approval. I see the same in many almshouses. We are prone to find fault, and when we go to a place we begin to make comparisons, and one may excel in one direction and another in another direction. I think the directors of the poor all over the State have received great benefit from the Association. You may go to any county where they have not attended our Conventions, or mingled with the directors of counties around them, and you will notice that they have not made the improvement that they ought to have made. [Applause.]

Mr. William Brown, of Erie, was here called upon, and responded as follows :

It is many years since I first came into this Association. I well remember the first visit I made. I was young then in the business, and it did me much good, and I will say here that if this Association is worth anything to anybody, it is worth a great deal to the stewards, especially in the rural districts. In the city Homes they have opportunities to learn, but in the rural districts they get around but little, and I am free to confess, with all my experience, that superintendents of the county Homes are not

taught, but I believe they are born to be natural superintendents. A man must love his work if he is going to be successful, and he must learn to know the ideas and thoughts of the inmates of the Home. I can look over our county Homes and count you out a hundred different temperaments and dispositions, and in taking inmates into the Home my first impressions are generally pretty nearly correct.

There is a man you have to be pretty stern with, another you would naturally think was of the crank order, but you may be able to handle him very nicely if you know how. They are not all adapted to one kind of business. One man may be good for mopping the floor, another one it would be torture for him to do it. If a steward understands men he can very soon pick out a man for any place. One man will take care of your barn; he may not be very able-bodied, but he is adapted to that place. You have a lot of swine; we have only two or three that are fit to feed swine out of two or three hundred inmates. A superintendent must have judgment, and make the proper selections, and put men to do things that they are adapted for, and he will find that his Home will go right along. Since I came back to the county Home I have had no trouble at all. I get men to like their positions, and they take care of them well. Now it requires ability and skill for a man to have charge of a county Home, and it needs a man of judgment; a man that can be quick if necessary, but who is generally cool in thought, and one that can make things spin, if he wants to. When I go through a Home I can form my opinion of whether or not it is running right.

Now I am glad you are here in Erie, and we have extended an invitation for you to come and see our Home. We haven't the most costly Home in the State, but I think we have a good one. I think you will feel that it is in good running order, and I am pretty well satisfied that if I am pleased myself with our Home that you will be pleased with it. I think we are in a condition that we needn't be ashamed to be seen. [Applause].

Mr. B. J. Lynch, (Laekawanna): The last gentleman's remarks have impressed me very much. I think the directors of the State should be appointed by the court, I think if the proper men are

on the Poor Board you will have the proper kind of stewards.

Another thing, I think every director should have a book and keep a record of what he does, for instance, the different cases of outside relief, etc., and at the end of the year he could see what he has done and he could profit by his last year's work. We are adopting that system on our board. We keep a record of every transaction, and at the end of the year we are going to compare our records with the record of the secretary, and see if we can be benefited in that way.

Mr. James Miller, (Mercer), here read the following paper :

IS A FARM OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF AN ALMSHOUSE?

By James S. Wallace, Steward of the Almshouse for the County of Mercer.

I think a farm is necessary to the successful management of an almshouse for several reasons, some of which I will mention.

All inmates that are able to work are better to be busy at some work than to be idle. They will be better contented, and enjoy better health than to be sitting around doing nothing. Some of the smart ones will be teasing the more simple. Therefore, for the good and comfort of the Home, they are better out of the house at work.

Our Poor Law requires that they shall be kept employed, and I think all that are able should be made to earn their own living, if they are in the almshouse. Many are brought there not because they are not able to work, but because they have not the brains to manage their work ; this is the case with both men and women. I think it is only encouraging pauperism to bring them to the almshouse, and let them sit around in idleness.

I think an institution of this kind should be made as nearly self-supporting as possible. We have a farm of 208 acres ; our directors think we should add 100 acres more to our farm, and they will then bring into the Home more that are receiving outside help. We have our own butter and milk supply ; our farm report for last year was 65 tons of hay, 525 bushels of wheat, 840 bushels of oats, 565 bushels of potatoes, 2,300 bushels of corn, 30 loads of pumpkins, 2,000 bundles of corn fodder, 75 bushels of onions, 100 bushels of turnips, one and one-half acres of sweet corn, 300 early cabbages, 2,000 late cabbages, peas, beans, tomatoes and other garden truck, to the value of \$150, 6,809 pounds of pork, 3,000 pounds of beef, 112,445 pounds of milk ; these products were valued at \$4,000. This is an average yield of the annual products of our farm. We have for our help, one hired man ; the rest of the work is done by the inmates. It costs as much to maintain an idle inmate, as one that is working. I know God never intended any one to be idle, especially the poor man or woman who is able to work.

A Voice: Will the gentleman explain what he means by "bringing them into the Home."

Mr. Miller: We have people who are receiving outside help, and who are paupers because their parents were, not because they are unable to work. I think one of the ways of breaking up chronic pauperism is to bring them to the Home and make them earn their own living. I mean people who are able to work, but who perhaps lack brains to manage their work.

Mr. J. W. Peck, (Somerset): I don't think you can run an almshouse without a farm. I think it is one of the most essential things. I have learned from experience and observation that all the inmates must have exercise, even the chronic insane. We have to take them out and move them about to give them exercise. Those that can do a little work can get exercise without that. In our home we don't work them excessively. What little work they do, they do about as they please, with an overseer over them. I have noticed where a man would husk two shocks of corn a day; but with 40 or 50 inmates even that counts. I believe many of our farms are too small. They should have lots for them to do. In the winter we have to exercise them some, they are too lazy to exercise themselves. You have to get them out of their rooms, they will remain in their rooms all day. You have to drive them out.

P. H. Bridenbaugh, (Blair): I don't think a farm is of primary importance to the successful management of an almshouse, primarily to give the inmates work, because the majority of the inmates never were farmers. I was raised on a farm myself, and I am glad there are very few of my profession in our almshouses. [Applause]. But I do think it is the happiest place for a Home, in the country where they can have the pure air, and I think you can maintain the inmates so much cheaper and give them better food than where you are dependent on the markets in a large city, and they ought to be out where they can have plenty of room. It is delightful to have a large farm connected with a county Home, where they have a large herd of cattle and get fresh milk

and butter, and fresh vegetables, and have your own slaughter-house, and feed your own stock.

That is why I think a farm is of importance, not to work the inmates. I like to see them work, but their work don't amount to much. It makes one nervous to work with them. You have to remember that they only work to put in the time.

I think a farm is of primary importance to the cheap management of an almshouse. In Blair county I don't think we have any more trouble in supplying our table than a good sized family has in the city. We never ask the directors to buy butter or milk, or anything like that. We have an abundance of vegetables. So with all the county Homes where they have large farms. The stewards and directors always take pride in a large amount of produce raised on the farms, and you will find it one of the boasts of the reports. Cambria county always gets ahead of Blair on potatoes, but that is about all they can brag of. We beat them on wheat. I advise them to enlarge their farm and have more cattle, and give their inmates more milk and butter.

Mr. J. L. Smith, (Chester): I agree that it is well to have more land. These people are the dependent class and they do not calculate to work. We positively refuse to give outside relief except in cases of sickness or death, or to tide them over for a brief period. These people wouldn't come into the almshouse, if we were to cut off outside relief.

With reference to the benefit of a farm we don't have much help in Chester county who can labor much on a farm, and we find they are not people that have been raised on a farm, as a rule. But I think it is of the greatest benefit in the management of an almshouse, in the way of raising large quantities of vegetables. I think that feature is overlooked by many. We can raise and furnish the paupers finer vegetables than any of us could find in the markets. The bills of fare in an almshouse become very monotonous, but with an abundant supply of vegetables you can vary your bill of fare, as you cannot if you have no farm.

Upon motion of Col. E. P. Gould, the Convention here adjourned until 7.30 this evening, at this place.

EVENING SESSION.

The exercises were opened by scripture reading and prayer by Rev. W. K. Crosby, of Erie.

The Convention was favored by the singing of two quartettes, sung by Mrs. Nick, Miss Miles, Mr. Diehl and Mr. Shacklett; the first, "The Parting Kiss," by Pinsuti, and the second, "Spring Song," by the same composer.

The singers were well received, and the selections were thoroughly enjoyed.

An invitation was read from Superintendent H. C. Missimer to the members of the Convention, to visit the public Library.

The invitation was accepted.

The reading of reports was here proceeded with.

Mr. H. C. Smith, (Chester), in submitting his report said: We feel proud of our Home, and especially our insane asylum. We feel that we have one of the best buildings that it is possible to build, costing about \$125,000. It is thoroughly fire-proof. We have a lady physician to superintend the institution, who has had twelve years experience among the insane, and we think she is well fitted for the position. We believe ladies will pay more attention to the details of institutional work than men will.

Mr. Shumaker presented the report of Somerset county, and it was adopted.

Mrs. E. P. Neill read the report of the Children's Aid Society of Crawford county.

The report is received with applause.

Mrs. Lydia B. Walton read the report of the Children's Aid Society of Chester county.

It is received with applause.

Mr. L. C. Colborn presented the report of the Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia county, stating that it has been handed to him to be read, and it was received with applause.

Dr. Henry M. Wetherill, secretary of the Committee on Lunacy who was on the program for a paper on "Hospitals for the Insane, their work, results, and cause of increase of insanity," being called upon said :

I haven't a paper written on the subject, but I would be glad to state the present condition of the results of the County Care Act, if that is acceptable to the members of the Association.

President Groff: We will be glad to hear from you.

Dr. Wetherill: In speaking of the County Care Act, of the 25th of May, 1897, I would like to congratulate the counties and districts that have prepared, or are preparing, for the care and treatment of their own indigent insane.

The County Care Act was passed when things were ready for it. Many of the counties and districts were ready for it long before it was passed, but the Legislature had to be ready and willing to pass the Act. It appeared very evident we were not going to have any more State hospitals for the present. The last one built was the State Asylum for the Chronic Insane at Wernersville. That is doing its own particular work in the industrial care of the able-bodied insane. There are 800 there now, and there has been about that number since it was opened. It is doing about all that can be expected of it, and the only vacancies there are created by death or a very occasional cure.

Now, that State hospitals were not forthcoming, and new provision had to be made for the rapidly increasing number of insane, it became necessary to pass the County Care Act, which offers to any municipality, district, county or township in the State that has or can supply suitable accommodations for their own indigent insane, that such district may take care of all classes of its insane, and receive from the State \$1.50 per week for each indigent insane person taken care of. There has been a very active movement. I think county care has started off to be a great success, when I consider the buildings

that have been and are now being constructed, the improvements of existing buildings, and all this since May 25th, 1897. I think we may safely assert that County Care has come to stay, and will be a great relief in its operations to the overcrowded State hospitals for the insane. It is a pitiable sight to go through the State Hospital at Norristown, at night, after the patients have retired. There are some six or eight hundred patients asleep on the floors—I don't mean lying on the floors—they are not very uncomfortable as to their bed; they have a spring mattress set in a wooden frame, with the ordinary bed covering and pillows, but they have very little air space; and while they send the patients out into the open air during the day, it is only applicable in certain conditions of the weather. The greatest evil is at night, and it requires a night visit to any of the five State hospitals to demonstrate the evils of the overcrowding of the insane. County care becomes a great relief to that.

These changes cannot take place immediately. The benefit of this Act cannot be felt in one or two, or even three years. Some of the counties have not apparently taken much notice of the Act, and others are rapidly making preparations. Some of the counties seem disposed to hold off and see how the other fellows make out before they try it. But in the last year there has been a great inquiry from New England and certain portions of the west to the Committee on Lunacy, asking for copies of this Act, and asking what has been its success, etc. We have always said that so far as it has proceeded, it is doing very well indeed, and I think it a success because of its reasonableness. What in the world is the use of paying \$3.75 or \$3.35 a week for the care of acute chronic insane people in State hospitals, where they are herded in enormous masses, far from their friends, when the county can supply the same and even better, at a far less cost?

I don't care what a building costs, it has got to pay for itself in the long run. The \$1.50 a week from the State will finally pay for it, as it has already for the 23 or 24 county asylums in Wisconsin. The State hospitals, I think, are against the movement, as a class. I am very sorry for it, but I see indications that they are not favorable to it.

Of course one reason is it takes from them a class of patients who are very useful indeed ; another alleged reason, on the part of some of those in charge of our State hospitals is, that it is inevitable that county care will be a return to barbarism. I don't believe that. If there was a time when our counties could not take care of their chronic insane comfortably, such time has gone by forever. There are no barbarities practiced on the insane in Pennsylvania in county or State hospitals, or any other institution, and I think the time has gone by when anyone can say that a county cannot take care of their own chronic insane, their insane friends and neighbors and relatives.

Many years before the passage of this Act, a large number of our municipalities in the larger districts and counties were already taking care of, and mighty good care of their insane. Some of them were treating all classes of their own insane, and doing it well. Of course other counties had no facilities, and others the facilities provided were not sufficient. But with the passage of this Act, and with the improvement of knowledge in everything, our knowledge of how to ourselves live in our own homes, a great improvement has taken place in our county institutions. It is only necessary to visit the new county institutions to see what an improvement there is.

Some say that the State has taken a long step backward in passing this Act. In Michigan they propose to ask the Legislature to pass an Act charging the counties with \$1.50 a week to pay to the State, so the State may take care of the insane. That is the County Care Act turned inside out. I don't think the Legislature will pass such a bill. County care has done well in Wisconsin. I think in Wisconsin it is to-day in such satisfactory working order, that they need not fear or heed the jeers of any sister State. In New York they have a State Care Act. There all the expenses of the indigent insane are paid by the State, and all the insane have been received into the State hospitals. This has proved a very expensive and costly policy. There are indications that New York is getting tired of it. The taxpayers are beginning to grumble, and I don't wonder.

Very much might be said on this subject ; much more than I ought to say to-night ; but what I can affirm, and very gladly

and thankfully affirm is, that so far as county care in its practical operation and in the preparation for its adoption by the counties, municipalities and districts has been tried, it is a very decided success. [Applause.]

President Groff: I would like to ask Mr. Wetherill his idea as to the best solution of the question of feeble-minded children in the various counties, and the possibilities of getting relief in that line?

Dr. Wetherill: I have thought of county care as applied to feeble-minded children. Of course it is a great innovation, and so is the Act as applied to the adult insane. It has been the custom heretofore, and I think pretty generally all over the world, to congregate feeble-minded children in large institutions. I don't see any reason why the care and education of feeble-minded children should not be as successful under an Act similar to that providing for county care treatment of the indigent insane adults. I don't see why a similar law should not be applicable to feeble-minded children.

It is not a question that I feel like speaking very positively about, because there are others who have had the care of feeble-minded children, and their education and training, etc., which I certainly have not had. The only reason why I visit officially the State Institution at Polk is, because there are a few adult feeble-minded people there who happen to be under the Lunacy Committee Act of May, 1883; otherwise I wouldn't visit it.

The training school for feeble-minded children, at Elwyn, doesn't come under my visitation. Mr. Cadwalader Biddle visits that institution. I see no reason why local district, county and municipal schools for the training of feeble-minded children should not prove of the same advantages to the child as we hope and believe resides in the County Care Act, as applied to the adult insane.

The paper on "The Work of the Children's Aid Society for Dependent Children," by Mrs. J. L. Anderson, of Pittsburgh, was here called for, but as Mrs. Anderson was not present, Hon.

E. P. Gould, of Erie, read the following paper on "State Appropriations to Charities."

Col. Gould said : I am very sorry that some of the members of this Association who would be interested in this paper are not present this evening, such as Dr. Walk, Mr. McGonnigle and others, and also Mr. Cadwalader Biddle. What I have prepared is more for discussion and thought than for the Paper itself.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO CHARITIES.

It is safe to assert that there is less system and fewer safeguards employed in making appropriations to charitable institutions by the State, than is used in making distributions of any other funds paid out of the State treasury. This statement, probably, should be limited to the institutions receiving State aid which are not under State control ; and yet the lobbying influences which are exerted during every session of the legislature in favor of special appropriations to the State institutions, and especially to some of the hospitals for the insane, are, to say the least, not creditable.

The Constitution of the State permits the funds of the State to be appropriated to charitable institutions, not under State control, which are not denominational or sectarian in character. To avoid any abuse of this privilege, and prevent any extravagance, it further provides, that every appropriation must receive a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each house of the legislature. The legislature has provided that all hospitals and other charitable institutions receiving State aid shall, when required, make such reports to the State Board of Public Charities as shall be, from time to time, required of them ; and some member of the board, or the general agent thereof, shall visit all such institutions at least once every year, and ascertain whether the moneys appropriated by the State have been economically and judiciously expended ; whether the objects of the several institutions have been accomplished ; whether the laws relating to them have been fully complied with ; and whether all parts of the State are equally benefited by them, all of which has never been thoroughly and satisfactorily done, and cannot be, unless greater powers are given to the Board of Public Charities. The legislature further provides that all such charitable institutions that may desire to receive State aid must give notice to the general agent of the Board of Public Charities on or before November first in each year, of the amount of any application for aid they may propose to make to the legislature. But the legislature is not restricted in any way in making appropriations to such institutions by the amount named in the notice to the general agent, or by the recommendation of the Board of Public Charities thereon.

These, in the main, are the rules and restrictions which govern appropriations to charitable institutions, not under State control, which receive State aid. It will be seen by this that there are no rules or established system which govern such appropriations. And it is well known that the greater and stronger the influence brought to bear, regardless of merit, the larger will be the appropriation. And it is expected of every member of the legislature that he will secure for the local charities in his district large appropriations ; and woe be to the unlucky legislator who fails to meet the expectations of his constituents in this respect.

One has but to look over the list of appropriations made each session by the legislature to the various charitable institutions of the State to see that influence, and not merit, method or system largely controls the amounts appropriated. Otherwise there is no explanation of the fact, that a small hospital in a village of less than 5,000 inhabitants often receives for maintenance as much, or more, than the large hospitals in cities of from 40,000 to 60,000 population, and a hospital in a city of 10,000 is given for maintenance twice as much as larger and better equipped institutions in cities of from 50,000 to 70,000 inhabitants.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, from a long familiarity and careful study of the subject, there can be but two valid reasons given why the State should aid in supporting the various hospitals and charitable institutions, not under State control ; and these are : first, to promote scientific investigation, develop a higher standard of excellence in medicine and surgery, support schools for the education of trained nurses, and other like purposes, all of which are for the public good ; and second, and principally, to compensate such institutions, in whole or in part, for work done. If this latter is the basis or reason for making such appropriations, then it should necessarily follow that the amounts appropriated to the several institutions respectfully should bear some proportion to the amount of free work done by each of them. This would seem to be an easy, just and natural rule to govern such appropriations, but in practice it will be found necessary to apply other restrictions. Each of such institutions are now required to report to the Board of Public Charities the gross amount of free service rendered each year; but no examination is ever made to learn the correctness of such reports. Unless that is done it would be very unsafe to base appropriations upon them. It would be offering a strong temptation to the various institutions to falsify their report, so far as relates to the free work done. In order to make these reports absolutely reliable there should be required of every such institution, receiving State aid, not only a report of the amount of free work done, but also a list of the persons treated, with the dates each was in the hospital as a free patient. There then should be a careful investigation as to the correctness of these reports. When this is done, the legislature would have a sound basis upon which to make appropriations to those charitable institutions not under State control; and the influence now so often used would not avail.

To thoroughly investigate the reports of these institutions the Board of Public Charities would have to be given larger powers. It is true the Board

now has the authority to do this work, but it is not possible, under existing circumstances, for the members to do it. The general agent has now imposed upon him all he can do, or ought to be required to do, yes, more than he, or any one, can do well; and the various members of the Board are, either gentlemen who have retired from active business, and are averse to giving all their time to such laborious work, for which they would receive no pay; or those who are so engrossed in their own affairs that they cannot devote to this work sufficient time to do the work well. If it is to be done under the supervision of the Board, then power should be given it to employ sufficient expert force to make the necessary investigations under the supervision and direction of the general agent of the Board.

But what seems to be a better plan, would be to establish a Department of Charities, or a Department of Charities and Corrections with power to do all this work. Such a department could be held to a far more rigid accountability in the performance of the work devolving upon it, than can be required of a Board, the members of which receive no compensation for services rendered. In fact has the time not come, when this, one of the most important functions of the State, should be made a Department of the State; placed under an experienced and responsible head, and held to a strict and rigid accountability for the faithful performance of all the duties required of it? Is it not asking too much of the members of the Board of Public Charities, to require them to look after the important details of this work, which will take a large part of their time, without any compensation?

This thought might be enlarged upon, and fortified, at length, by argument and statistics, but it is not the intention to treat exhaustively of the subject in this paper, but rather to bring to your attention the facts and suggestions contained in it, for your consideration and criticism, with the hope that it will eventually result in some reforms in making appropriations to charitable institutions.

Mr. L. C. Colborn moved that the matter referred to in this paper be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Col. Gould: I object to that, as I am chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and if there is any action to be taken it should be by a special committee.

Mr. Colborn: We will refer it to the balance of the committee then.

(The motion of Mr. Colborn is agreed to.)

On motion the address of P. H. Bridenbaugh on, "The necessity of establishing a Hospital in Western Pennsylvania for Epileptics" was deferred until to-morrow afternoon.

Upon motion the Convention here adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow afternoon, the meeting to-morrow morning being a joint session of the two Conventions.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Joint session of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, and the Association of County Commissioners of Pennsylvania, held in the Court House at Erie, Wednesday morning, October 11th, 1899.

The session was called to order by Mr. A. E. Sisson, of Erie, President of the Association of County Commissioners.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Montgomery, Assistant Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Erie.

Mr. R. S. Hopewood, of Fayette County, spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: Some 25 years ago, in the town in which I reside, there lived two worthy gentlemen, a little addicted to drink, Daniel and William. On one of their sprees, they discussed this question: Daniel says, "William, after God had created the world and all therein except man, he made the remark, 'Let us create man in our own image,' etc. Now I would like to know to whom He was making that remark?" and after thinking a while, William says, "After mature deliberation, Daniel, I am of the opinion that He was not addressing anyone in particular, but the crowd in general." [Laughter].

Now I will have to address the crowd in general. I have suggested to Mr. Sisson that he assume this address, but he declined and said I was on the program and would have to appear. As I haven't prepared any speech on the lines and duties of either of these Conventions, I will have to talk generally, for a little time.

Shall I talk of the olden times, "those pure and happy times, the golden days of old?" They were golden days. We remember days when the skies seemed brighter, the flowers more beautiful, and the birds sang sweeter in the branches above us than they do to-day. We remember times when the snows were thicker on the hillsides in the winter time, when we slid down hill with the girl we loved best, and we remember how those girls had roses in their cheeks more beautiful than any we see now. It

may have been because our eyes were young then and our hearts were young and impressionable.

So they were good old times, but the poet missed it when he said those were times "When faith was kept," as against this time. This is the best time the world has ever seen, up to this date. There have been no "good old times" better than this. But this is a better time than any that has preceded it since Adam and Eve wandered forth from that fair garden far in the young world's misty dawn.

When they were building the Lincoln Cathedral it is said that an apprentice took the rejected pieces of glass that the artist threw aside and out of those rejected pieces constructed a window so much more beautiful than any other window in the Cathedral that the artist killed himself because of the disappointment and shame it brought to him.

That is what we have done in this country ; we have taken the pieces of humanity that have been driven out of the old world and they are still coming on, hordes of them driven from other countries, and we have received them from all the nations of the earth, these incongruous elements, these pieces of humanity, and welded them together into the fairest state the world has ever seen. We have taken this country that was filled with wild beasts and wilder men and have carved out a most beautiful country. Look at this beautiful city we are in, I hadn't any idea that they had so lovely a city on the borders of old Erie as they have here. I took a drive last evening and I find that up here on Lake Erie they are not behind any portion of this grand commonwealth or this great nation.

In New York harbor all of you who have been there in the last twenty years have seen a great statue, in her hand holding a torch, representing the Goddess of Liberty enlightening the world, but until recently those that would see that light must come within the borders of our land ; they must come within a few miles to see that great light enlightening the world ; but Uncle Sam has gone out on his great ships and has gone around the world, and I am glad that he has. There may be those who are sorry, but they will be glad in the years to come that he has gone to the Philippines and to Cuba, and the light that has been enlightening

the world on this side of the water is now going around the world. Some will shut their eyes and not see it. Those people in the Philippines are shutting their eyes to-day against their own best interests. They have known in the past that the hand of power has been the hand of oppression, but when Dewey sailed into Manila Bay and by the lightning of his power and the thunder of his guns wiped the Spanish out of that harbor so quick, they thought "here comes some power so much greater than that that has held us that if they govern us we will be oppressed indeed." We have no doubt that nine-tenths of them believed that. But they only saw Dewey at Manila Bay, amid the thunder of his guns and the lightning of his cannon; they did not see him at New York the other day when the little girls threw flowers at him and he threw kisses at them. They didn't know that he had a great heart in him. They will find out in the years to come. But we owe them a duty, and we cannot retrace any step that Dewey has taken there, and I am glad that William McKinley in standing up, in spite of the growlers, and saying that the work must go on, and that we must finish what we have begun, although some of the nations may growl about it and some of us at home may growl about it. [Applause].

The growlers are like the poor: they are always with us. Robert Ingersoll went down to his grave without giving us a star of hope. Poor old Robert growled about the mistakes of Moses, but he gave us no other light. Let us cling to the Light we have until we get something better. If these growlers can tell us of something better than we have we will then listen, but when they just growl, and show us no remedy, give them a back seat and don't talk to them.

The world is better than ever before: why, this is the wealthiest nation on the face of the earth. We have labor for every hand that can work in the United States. I don't claim that the Republican party did all this: but we have it, and with labor comes happiness. The idle man is the most miserable man in the world. I met a man this summer away up on the Cheat river who had been left a large sum of money, and he was camping out in that lonely region and he spent his time there alone with his colored boy, and I supposed he was happy and I understood that

had been his life, that he wandered around the world in an aimless sort of manner, because he had money left him, and his life had been useless. Was he happy? I talked with him and he was the most miserable man I met this summer. If he had toiled eleven months out of the year and taken a month's vacation he would have been happy. This is not the happiest nation in the world because of our wealth, but it is the best year in all the history of the world because the hearts of mankind beat for their fellow man as never before. You have all read that beautiful little poem.

Mr. Hopewood closed his address by reciting that well known and beautiful poem of Leigh Hunt's, "About Ben Adhem."

Mrs. Rankin read the report of the Children's Aid Society of Fayette County.

Mr. O. P. Blakeslee read the report of Crawford County.

Mr. Blakeslee: We derive much benefit from the labor of the inmates. It has been stated here that their labor was not of much value. But with us they perform this labor cheerfully and we think it beneficial to them as well as to the county. They get their exercise in doing the work, and we think in our county the office of Director of the Poor would be useless. We don't believe in multiplying the number of offices, and the Commissioners are acquainted with the finances of the county and we are better able to control the out-door relief than a separate Board would be. We are assisted a great deal by some societies. We have a society in Titusville doing a good work, called "The Helping Hand," and an Aid Society in Meadville, but there is a tendency to go into extravagance and in the goodness of their hearts they want to do a little too much. A Board of Directors of the Poor might with them embarrass the county, by being too liberal, and supporting people who are able to take care of themselves. We find in out-door relief work, that a family once helped lose their spirit of independence, and the only effort they will make is in the direction of having the county clothe and feed them absolutely. Never to my knowledge have our county inmates been as well housed and fed as they are now, and I don't think there is a county in

the State where these unfortunate people are happier than in our county. We give great credit to the superintendent and matron, and are very thankful that we have such good people to manage our institution.

Mr. Colborn : What is the cost of maintenance in your county Home ?

Mr. Blakeslee : It costs about \$1.25 a week. Our greatest expense is with our chronic insane at the State institution at North Warren. The county expends about \$13,000 a year for their maintenance. The out-door relief amounts to about \$8,000 and \$9,000. We have 85,000 people in the county, and 104 inmates in the Home.

A Voice : You mean an expense of \$1.25 besides the expense of your farm ?

Mr. Blakeslee : Yes.

President Sisson : In your county the office of Director of the Poor is merged into the County Commissioner ?

Mr. Blakeslee : Yes.

Mr. L. C. Colborn : This question was placed on the program because there are but a few counties where the County Commissioners become by Act of Assembly, Directors of the Poor. Mr. Blakeslee reports that there are 104 inmates in their Home, he says the out-door relief is over \$9,000. We had an average of 101 in the Somerset County Home last year, regulated by the aid of the Directors of the Poor, at a cost of less than \$9,000, including the out-door relief and the maintenance of the Home and the care of the insane in the State hospitals.

The work of the County Commissioners has been so increased that it would be utterly impossible, in my opinion, for them to perform both duties well. That is my opinion, and I was glad

to hear this report. This question was put on to bring out a discussion in regard to this very thing.

I don't think this Act has been in any instance satisfactory, either to the Director of the Poor or County Commissioner. One or the other will suffer. When you delegate work to others it is not well done. [Applause].

Mr. Young, (Erie): I am glad to hear this report from Crawford county. I have been opposed to having the two offices merged. But so far as the question of economy is concerned I don't see that Mr. Blakeslee's report shows anything in favor of their system. We have in this county some 200 inmates. The expenses amounts in round numbers to some thirty thousand dollars in Crawford county, our expenses (except last year when we built a barn) are about forty thousand dollars a year. Ten thousand a year more than theirs, and we have double the pauper population. We are situated where we catch quite a bit of the floating population of paupers from Buffalo and Cleveland. So I am unable to see anything in favor of the system in Crawford county, from the report of the gentleman.

Mr. James Moore, (Cambria): I don't think the County Commissioners could act as Directors of the Poor in all Counties. It depends on where you are. In rural districts it might be done, but in my county, where it is manufacturing and mining principally, they couldn't do it. It will take at least one to put in his whole time—you have to investigate applications for relief. Our county pays but \$100 a year to the Directors of the Poor. The Commissioners would have to do that work and would have to have a good deal more money. I have nearly two-thirds of the county to attend to and it takes all my time. I have nothing else to do and I am going nearly all the time, which they couldn't do.

Another thing, I think there should be in each township and district a ladies' auxiliary in connection with the Directors of the Poor. They can go into a house and examine into a case more thoroughly than we can. I think such an auxiliary of ladies should be in each district.

I am certainly opposed to merging the Directors of the Poor and the Commissioners.

Discussion of the subject, "Who is and should be financially responsible for payment of boarding, clothing and care of dependent children, and visiting expenses by Children's Aid Society," by Mr. E. N. Bigger, Esq., of Beaver :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I might say, first of all, that I am not certain that I understand the subject that was assigned to me ; but it occurs to me that in the discussion of this subject perhaps the Committee on Program had in mind the question of whether it should be the State or county, on the matter of who should be financially responsible for the maintenance of indigent children. As to that it seems to me there is but little difficulty. In the first place the general trend of public opinion at the present time is in the direction of relieving the State from cares of this sort. That is, public opinion at present seems to be growing in favor of county care of the insane and of the county taking care of its own population in every way possible.

Even to the extent of the erection and maintenance of work houses, where petty criminals may be confined and compelled to work, rather than sending them to the State institutions. Another thing is that in the present financial condition of the State it would not be advisable to place any additional burdens on the Commonwealth—as the common school appropriations have to be cut at the present time. Therefore I think this burden should fall on the counties.

Then, who is financially responsible for their maintenance and support? I might say that it is the taxpayers. It is the taxpayer who foots the bill, and the question comes down to this, who can best manage these financial affairs ; who can secure the best care of these unfortunate people, at the least expense to the taxpayers? The expense to our taxpayer ought to be of secondary consideration. The first consideration is the proper care of these unfortunate children. There is no class of people that appeal to me as do the children of the paupers. There is perhaps no work devolving on the public officials that is more important than the care and maintenance and education of these children.

They are born in such unfortunate environments, and the whole tendency of their surroundings is so strongly against them that

unless the strong arm of the law, in the person of the public officials, takes them up and removes them from these unfortunate environments, and care for and educate them and set their faces in another direction the chances are that they will be the pauper parents of the next generation.

I will give a little of our experience. Five or six years ago the pauper children of Beaver county were in the County Home. They had a teacher employed and had a pauper school, and were rearing up a pauper population in the county. We might have continued in that way until this time, if some good woman in Beaver Falls had not organized a Ladies' Aid Society and taken the thing in charge. It was owing to their protests that the thing was broken up. The next attempt they made was in this direction. They placed these children in the care of the Ladies' Aid Society, allowing the Aid Society a certain sum per week for their support, I think about \$1.50. For reasons which I need not enter into, that project did not prove entirely satisfactory, so that was changed, and now those children are placed in a Children's Home in Allegheny county, where the cost is \$1.60 per week for each child. That includes their clothing, board and education, and there is a proviso in the contract that as rapidly as the Children's Aid Society can find good homes for them they are removed from the care of the Children's Home and placed in proper families in the county.

Now, there may be a better way than this, but it is a wonderful improvement over the original plan of having them in the County Home, and so far as I know there is no fault found with the manner in which the children are now cared for.

Now as to who should pay these expenses, I take it, it makes very little difference. I don't know how it is in your counties, but in ours there is sometimes a little feeling between the Directors of the Poor and the County Commissioners as to expenses connected with the care of the poor. The County Commissioners want their annual statements to show as small as possible, and the Directors of the Poor have the same thing in view. But that is all wrong. What they should pride themselves on is not the smallness of the expenditures but the thoroughness and completeness of their work. [Applause].

I don't think the people of Beaver county are any better than the people of other counties, but I know that whenever the Directors of the Poor or the County Commissioners take a step forward, or do something that ought to be done the great majority of the public approves it.

I will say, here, that you have no more important question with which to deal than the question of care of these children. Let me urge upon you not only the importance of this question but the fact that if you care for these children, as you ought to, if you call in the Ladies' Aid Society to assist you, and see to it that instead of bringing up a new generation of paupers you bring up a new generation of efficient, educated progressive and valuable men and women to take the places of the present generation, you will receive the commendation of the thinking public, and that is the only part of the public which you and I need care a snap of our finger about. [Applause].

Mr. R. D. McGonnigle, (Pittsburgh): I did not intend to say anything, but these remarks have set me to thinking. I want to congratulate my friend, and Beaver county, on the broad lines that they lay down for taking care of their children. Possibly there is no one in this room who looks back as I do to the time when the question that bothered the Directors of the Poor of the State was, "what are we going to do with the children in our almshouses?" At every meeting of the Association that question came up. We all admitted that the almshouse was no place for them, and fortunately there came to our aid the Children's Aid Society, and they came at a time when we needed them, in 1882. After that we had the Act of 1883, following along the lines of the New York State Law. And the result is we have these good women among us. And we have this good report from Beaver county, and I want to commend to all the counties in the State to follow out on the general lines laid down in Beaver county.

Children in any institution become "institutionized." They become unfitted for family life.

There is one suggestion I wish to make to my friend from Beaver, and that is, be careful you don't keep your children too

long in the Home you speak of. The sooner you get them away from the institution the better for the child and for all concerned. It is a good thing often to have an institution to take a child to, and polish it up, because the Directors sometimes have to take charge of children that are utterly unfit to go into any family, necessarily you must put them somewhere where they can have the rough edges polished off and be trained to keep clean, but the moment you can properly get that child into a family do so.

Another thought : In the early days the cost of taking care of these children was always figured on, and now these good women will care for them for \$1.25 or \$1.50 a week. The idea of dollars and cents should not be counted at all. If it costs you \$3 a week it is far better to give them over to the women than to keep them in the almshouses at \$1.50 a week. The work of the Children's Aid Society is the very thing that will bring these children up to the condition that we want to bring them to. [Applause.]

Mr. Bigger, (Beaver): Perhaps Mr. McGonnigle missed one of my statements : that is, that while the children are placed in this Home they are still under the general management of the Children's Aid Society ; and under the contract with the authorities of the Home, they are taken out of there and placed in private families as rapidly as the ladies think they are in proper condition to be so placed.

Mrs. E. P. Neil, (Crawford County): This is the second convention I have attended in which the women of Crawford have been accused of extravagance. I would like to ask the gentlemen whether they would be willing to give us \$1.25 or \$1.50 a week for the support of the children ? I think there is a misapprehension about the way the Children's Aid Society meet the expenses of these children. Our Commissioners do assist us, but they pay no sum of money for the support of the children. We have a very small State appropriation, and after that we get our money by entertainments and private subscriptions. I think no child costs us \$1.50 per week. We are very glad for the assis-

tance that the Commissioners do give us, but they don't pay any given amount of money for the support of the children.

President Groff: In this matter of giving aid to the Children's Aid Society, I want to say that in our county we have about sixty children under the care of the Ladies' Aid Society, and we pay to that Society \$1.75 a week for their care. Sometime ago we appointed a committee to investigate and see how the children were cared for, and we found they were boarded around in different parts of the county, in bunches of eight and ten or fifteen. When we commenced checking up we found we were paying for a number of children that we couldn't find—for a number of children that had far exceeded the limit of four years. So we have come to the conclusion that the Aid Society in our county is a failure, but we believe if it were reorganized and run as the Aid Societies are in Western and Northern Pennsylvania, and as it appears to be in Chester County, it would be a great benefit to us. We pay the Aid Society about \$105.00 a week in our county, and feel that if properly conducted it could be made one of the best institutions in the state. I have been inquiring of the ladies in attendance here, and I find they are doing a great work, and that our conception of this Society was entirely wrong. I would like to talk with more of the ladies on this subject, and see more of the running of this Society. I have also talked with Directors from other places, and I find that in some places the same conditions exist as in Lancaster County. I am inclined to think it is the fault of both the Directors and of the Ladies' Aid Society. Our Directors owe it to the children and to the Ladies' Aid Society to see that they get no more of our children until the Society is reorganized, or some different arrangement made.

Mr. J. L. Smith, (Chester): I am glad to give a different report from that of Lancaster. I would say that the success of the Society all depends on the women who have charge of the work. We in Chester County are proud of the results, and the care our children receive through the Aid Society. They do not as a rule board more than one child in a family—any boarding home. It would be an exceptional case where a second child

would be allowed in the same home. It is not the idea to colonize children, but to give them the benefit of a home and the home influences that our own children have. We believe it is a mistake to place them in institutions. While I was much pleased with your institution here (The Home of the Friendless), I think the tendency is to keep them there too long. We as Directors don't claim any credit for the success of this matter of the children in Chester County. Our ladies do all the work, so we couldn't aid them. The different branches send the bills in once a month, and we issue an order to the Treasurer of that local committee for the payment of the bill. We know where the money is going before the order is issued.

I am of the firm belief that in the schools organized for the care of soldiers' children the door should be open to take in a limited class of our children, that need the discipline that they will not get in private families. Some children need discipline and will not receive it in a private home.

President Groff: We have a Children's Home that the children are sent to under the Act of Assembly, after they are four years old, and there are about a hundred there now. We are supposed to cease paying the \$1.50 a week at that time; but that is not the condition that exists.

Mr. Smith: We don't fix any time limit, in our county, as to the time they shall be kept in the Home. A desirable child may find a very early home, and another might be kept for eight or ten years. It all depends on the child.

President Sisson read a note of invitation for the members of the Conventions to visit Hamot Hospital, at their convenience.

In the absence of Mr. Edward E. Long, Mr. L. C. Colborn read the following paper, prepared by Mr. Long:

SHOULD TRAMPS BE TOLERATED OR ENCOURAGED? EFFECT OF THE VAGRANT LAWS.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention:

The subject which I am to open for discussion is one that is troubling both the County Commissioners and the Directors of the Poor throughout the entire Commonwealth. There is no more dangerous class in the State to the peace and good order of the community at large than the idle, wandering, irresponsible, begging, barn-burning, thieving and depredating people commonly known as "tramps." They are the dread of all housewives, a terror to farmers and persons living in isolated places, a constant annoyance to peace officers and an everlasting expense to County Commissioners and Directors of the Poor. Should they be encouraged? You will agree with me when I answer, "No." Should they be tolerated? My answer to that would be, "No, not if there is any way of getting rid of them." And there is where the trouble comes in. Tramps are like flies in warm weather. They are always on hand, and while we may take measures to shut them out, we are never entirely rid of them.

Have we any power to prevent the tramp nuisance in this State? Yes; the State Legislature has enacted laws which, if strictly enforced in every city, borough and township of the State, would eradicate the tramp nuisance. But it would compel the various counties to support all the tramps found wandering in their respective limits. This would be such a burden, that rather than assume it the taxpayers as a whole prefer to be annoyed by the tramps who wander from door to door, from place to place and finally into another State.

Let us examine the Tramp and Vagrant Laws for a few minutes and see what can be done under them. The Act of Assembly passed May 8, 1876 (P. L. 154), defines who shall be deemed vagrants, authorizes constables and police officers of townships, boroughs and cities, on view or notice by any inhabitants, to arrest them and take them before a justice of the peace or magistrate, who shall have power to commit them to the county jail, workhouse or poor-house for not less than thirty days nor more than six months. It also makes provision for sending home non-resident poor, whether the home be in this State or elsewhere. It further provides that all expenses be paid out of the county treasury.

If this Act were strictly carried out all over the State, it would mean the filling up of the jails and poor-houses for a time, and after the expiration of a term of imprisonment, the transfer of many tramps from one county to another and out of the State, and finally the permanent keeping in the almshouses of many persons who are now tramping through the different communities eking out a precarious existence by begging from door to door and thieving and robbing when opportunity offers. This would mean increased taxation, but would not the public be benefited many times the cost?

An act was passed April 30, 1879 (P. L. 33), defining tramps and providing for their imprisonment at labor in the county jail or workhouse for not more than twelve months, in the discretion of the court.

When tramps are arrested and bound over for a trial in court, under the provisions of this act, they are generally punished pretty severely by the judges, and when their time is served, are not likely to return to the county again. In our county there are few arrests of this kind, and such arrests are generally in country districts where tramps congregate and annoy a neighborhood. In our Borough of Norristown we were greatly troubled in the past. The practice was for the Burgess to commit a tramp to the county jail over night ; he was then given a light breakfast and went on his way rejoicing. As a result, tramps steered for this place from all quarters, and the town was overrun with them. In the course of a winter about 2,000 tramps would be thus accommodated, to the great profit of the Burgess and at a great expense to the county.

Several years ago it was determined to get rid of this burden and nuisance. The Burgess began to sentence the tramps to thirty days in jail, and the prison authorities bought several tons of pig iron, and Mr. Tramp was compelled, much against his will, to work for several hours each day in carrying pig iron in the prison yard. There was soon a great falling off in tramps in Norristown. At the present time the term in jail is made from one day up, but every tramp is compelled to work at least two hours each day, and generally before he gets anything to eat. In spite of this fact there were about 500 tramps accommodated from our town last year.

The lesson we can learn from this is that if tramps are severely punished all over the State they will avoid it. Let the law be rightly enforced and we will get nearly rid of the nuisance, and a dangerous criminal class will be driven from the Commonwealth.

Mr. W. C. Kress, (Clinton County), said: Prior to 1894 our county was burdened with the supply of tramps. The bill for the tramp nuisance, in December, 1893, was between fifteen and sixteen hundred dollars. I became Solicitor for the Commissioners in 1894. When the bill for that month came in I instructed the Commissioners not to pay anything, and we had a pretty big fight with the sheriff and constables and aldermen. It has been a source of great revenue to them.

When a tramp came to town they steered immediately to the Mayor or alderman's office. He was committed and given in charge of the constable, who charged fees for his arrest and committing to prison, and the alderman charged his fee, and the sheriff charged his fee, with two day's board: although he was turned out in the morning without breakfast. Then they threatened to send every tramp to jail for thirty days, and make the county pay for their keeping. But we haven't, from that day to this, had half a dozen tramps sentenced for thirty days. They

are willing to go to jail every night, but not for thirty days. So, while we have now and then a tramp going from house to house, the county has been almost entirely free from them now for almost six years.

Dr. Marks, (Erie): I would like to submit a remedy that was used in Germany to get rid of tramps. I read this in a paper. The article said: "Germany has no tramps. Why the United States has so many tramps and Germany none." The reason was that Germany enacted a provision that in every town of any size there was a large cistern, and in that cistern was a pump, and water went into the cistern and the pump had to be worked or the tramp would drown, if dropped in. When a tramp struck the town they would put him in the cistern and hand him the pump. After a few hours' pumping he was glad to get out, and he never came back. And he told his brother tramps, and they never came back. [Laughter.]

Mr. Davis: I think we better go to using these cisterns and pumps. This is a very annoying question. When we enforce the Acts of Assembly as to tramps we only accumulate costs. The officers all have their bills of costs, to be handed in after the tramps have left the jail, and what effect does it all have? In 99 cases out of 100 the tramp is glad to get into jail. They often apply for admission, and what do they care about a short jail sentence? It is a matter with them of rest between points.

I am directly opposed to the stewards of alms houses tolerating or encouraging tramps: I am opposed to any man who works for his living entertaining a tramp in any form, unless in the company of a dog. I don't wish it to be inferred that I am so inhuman as to refuse a bite to eat or a bed to a poverty-stricken individual. If a man is paralyzed or blind or crippled he is entitled to our sympathy and to our aid. But a man who is better able to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow than the man or woman from whom he asks aid, we have no right to entertain or encourage, and I know of no better way of getting rid of them than for every man and woman to refuse them lodging and meals. Then they will look for something to do, before long.

There is no excuse for a tramp in the State of Pennsylvania to-day. If he is an invalid we have institutions for them, if not he should not be tolerated.

President Groff : I think if the stewards and people generally refuse to give a meal to a tramp, he will steal it. There is one State where they have a good law for tramps : that is Delaware. I am told in that State they are put in the stocks and threshed, and that as soon as a tramp is told he is near the State of Delaware he travels the other way. That may be a barbarous practice, but I don't think you can make them work.

Mr. James S. Wallace, (Mercer): We don't have enough tramps in our county. We used to have plenty of them. The Burgess sent them out of town. We had a drive, from the Home out to the road, some 100 rods, that we wanted paved. It was mud. We adopted rules to put the tramps to work. Everyone of them we put to work. I worked them if they came at 10 o'clock at night. We got stone enough pounded to pave our drive. For the last three or four years I haven't had any stone pounded, and I have three or four stone piles I want pounded : so if you have any tramps, send them our way. We want more tramps. [Laughter.]

Mr. Young, (Erie): If we should adopt such drastic measures as spoken of by Dr. Marks, would he arrest us for cruelty to animals?

Mr. Marks : No ; it wouldn't come under that head.

Mr. Young : We are particularly cursed, here, with tramps. We have Buffalo on one side and Cleveland on the other, and they flock along the line of this railroad. If we could adopt some such measure as Germany has adopted, I think it would be a God-send to this country. When once a person becomes a tramp he is always a tramp. Unless we adopt some severe measure we will have the army of tramps continually swelled. It is said this country has an army of some two million tramps. We are now in an era of prosperity such as we never have seen, and

yet we have as many tramps as before. It shows that when they get into that army they stay there. They don't want to work ; they want idleness. It behooves us as Commissioners to take hold of this matter, and as citizens to labor with our legislators to get better laws on this subject.

Mr. Blakeslee, (Crawford): It seems to me we have more tramps than any other part of the State, and they are an unmitigated nuisance. They have a place in the woods where they congregate and stay, and they commit all kinds of depredations. For the past few months we have had our jail overrun with them. We have organized a Prison Board, with the judge and sheriff members of the board ; we have made up our minds to put them in charge of some good muscular deputies ; and in the language of the Dutchman, we are going to make them earn their bread by the sweat of their eye-brows.

A Voice : Under the Act of 1899 we have organized a Prison Board, and we are so much encouraged we are going to keep right on, and we believe we are going to head them off.

Mr. Hopewood : I want to give my testimony to one good tramp ; we haven't heard of one, yet. They are not all bad. I don't think there are any good ones left now. I think there is about two jobs for every man in our county, now. We have nearly 19,000 coke ovens in our county, so there is no excuse for tramps now. But there come times when people have to tramp. A thing that occurred to me about two Sundays ago came to my mind. I was going to church with my wife, and a little fellow approached me, and I says to my wife, do you know that fellow, and she says, "We have fed him a number of times." She says, "He was at our house for something to eat several years ago." He has now got a good position there and is working right along. We have watched him and he seems as good a citizen as we have about town.

Now there is one good tramp. I don't think we ought to condemn any class of people as a whole, for hard times sometimes come when people cannot find work. Half of the coke ovens went out of blast in our county a few years ago, and all those

people had to go out of the county ; and they couldn't go in parlor cars, but they had to tramp.

Mr. C. W. Kress, of Lock Haven, on the subject, "Present System of Auditing the Accounts of County Commissioners and Directors of the Poor ; Abuse, Misuse and Extent of Authority."

Mr. Kress said :

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

My friend from Beaver County said he wasn't certain whether or not he understood his subject. I am quite certain I don't understand mine.

A metaphysician has been described as a man who discusses questions which he doesn't understand to people who cannot comprehend it : I think it was on that principle that I was selected to discuss this question. Why there wasn't included in this subject the auditing of the accounts of the sheriff and the treasurer, I don't know.

We have no directors of the poor in our county, and I know nothing about their accounts nor what difficulties they have with the officers on the subject.

What I think I do know is that county auditors should be abolished. They are selected by political influence—I know it is so in our county—without regard, so far as I have been able to ascertain, to their fitness. In nine cases out of ten they are totally unfit for the business. In nearly every instance they depend on some clerk. Very often he is continued from year to year, and he does the whole business and they sign their names to it.

In order to get a trial by jury there must be an appeal. Now what a jury has to do with this question I cannot understand. Ninety-nine out of one hundred questions that will come up on appeal from an auditors' report are questions of law, and all that the jury can do is to sit and listen to what the Court says. In the two or three trials I have known about that was the way it was conducted.

If the accounts were audited by an auditor appointed by the Court and these matters disposed of by the Court on exceptions, it would then come before the Court in a manner that the Court

would decide what the law was, and if they were not satisfied with the lower court they could go to the Supreme Court.

In a few years you would have the decisions of the higher court on the subjects. Then the officers of the counties would all understand what should and what should not be paid.

These are about my ideas.

The Convention here adjourned until 2. 0 this afternoon, when the Convention of the Directors of the Poor and Charities will meet at the parish house.

At 11.30 A. M. the members of the Conventions took the electric cars at the corner of Eighth and State Straets and were met at Pennsylvania Avenue by carriages from the alms house, where they gathered to enjoy the hospitality offered to them by the Directors and Steward (Mr. Wm. Brown), and where, after partaking of a fine lunch and having a good time generally, carriages were awaiting to take them to the end of the car line at Twenty-sixth street, to convey them back to the city for the afternoon session. Everyone voted it a very pleasant trip.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Afternoon Session of the Convention of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, at the parish house of St. Paul's, P. M.

The report of the Committee on Place of Next Meeting is presented, and on motion of Mr. L. C. Colborn it is adopted : fixing Wilkes-Barre as the place of next meeting.

John F. Scragg, (Scranton) : I think someone ought to tell us about this instition at Polk. I know we never had our quota of children at Elwyn : while it would be overcrowded and we couldn't get them in, still if we would agree to pay a handsome price we could always get them in. Then it was suggested the conditions there might be changed if the institution was established at Polk. It was established, but I see no benefit to the Commonwealth from it, because we can't get children in there, and it is in the same condition that Elwyn was in. You can get them in if you pay for them, and in no other way. They always say they are overcrowded and that the quota is full, unless we pay handsomely for it. I would very much like to hear a report from that institution.

Mrs. H. L. Rankin : I am personally interested in Polk : we have children there and I have been there frequently, and I have had freedom to go all over the institution, without anyone with me.

We have children there at \$25.00 a year. I find they have nice beds, with hair mattresses, and well furnished. Once every hour a nurse is expected to go around to each bed and see that everything is satisfactory. That is expected to be done at every hour during the night. I don't myself know what we would do without that institution. In May, after it was opened, things looked very rough, but when I was there again I was surprised ; everything looked so neat. The children go to their school rooms until 10 o'clock, and then to dinner. I was there two or three days, going all through the institution. Perhaps I am prejudiced

in their favor, but I was certainly very much pleased with the management of Polk.

Mrs. E. P. Neill : I have never heard anything about Polk being overcrowded.

Mr. Scragg : I don't mean that the institution is overcrowded, but they claim that that part of the institution where they receive children from the districts is overcrowded.

Mr. Barker : It appears to me there is a lack of knowledge among the Directors as to their rights in Elwyn or Polk. I live close to Elwyn and drive past it every day. I don't think anyone could object to its management; but I do hear objections raised from districts that their quota is always full: but very few people know what their quota is. I know there are children in Elwyn from New Jersey, and from all over the United States. That seems to me wrong, that they should be there at the expense of the children of Pennsylvania, and I am glad this discussion has been brought about.

Mr. Hunker, (Allegheny) : Elwyn isn't a State institution. It is a private institution, receiving State aid.

President Groff : I understand that Elwyn is a semi-State institution. In its origin it was a private institution, but the proposition was made to the Legislature that if they would appropriate a certain amount of money we would be allowed a certain representation, and that represents between three and four to each member of the House and Senate.

When the appropriation was made for Polk the people in the eastern part of the State were promised increased facilities at Elwyn. A committee was sent to see the authorities at Elwyn and they informed us that the institution at Polk was filled, without relieving Elwyn at all. It seems to me that Polk must have relieved Elwyn. We were told that by paying \$200 a year we could obtain admission for as many children as we desired. It seems to be that an investigation should be made to see if we are getting our proper quota.

Another thing that seems to be wrong is that they will keep adults there. I know where one girl was kept in that institution (Elwyn) and grew to womanhood. It seems to me that is wrong. If they are feebleminded and have grown old they can probably get into an institution for chronic insane, or for feeble minded adults, which would be a relief to the children. I think it would be well for the Convention to take some definite action on this matter. It seems to me we are discussing the old questions, and not accomplishing much.

As Dr. Wetherill has said, the only way we can accomplish anything is by asking for legislation, and standing by and seeing that it is done. The whole trouble is, we are giving State appropriations to a private institution, and the management allow us the representation that they see proper, after they have got as many pay patients as they can.

Dr. E. J. Butler, (Luzerne): I have been trying to get three children there, and cannot get them there at all. I think there ought to be some investigation brought out on this matter.

P. H. Bridenbaugh, (Blair): We must remember that they cannot carry but a certain number there, under the State appropriation. Over a year ago the Directors of Blair County applied to Dr. Murdoch for the admission of a feeble minded boy that we wanted very much to get there, and he said they were carrying all the children they could carry on State appropriations, but if the Directors were willing to pay \$3.65 a week until the Legislature met and an increase obtained, perhaps the child could be placed on the State list. The child was sent on and the Directors paid \$3.65 a week until sometime last winter.

Last winter I wrote to Dr. Murdoch to have two children admitted there, and he said they were full, and I wrote back to him to know on what basis children were admitted to Polk from different counties, whether or not the population was taken into consideration.

He said that priority of application had precedence.

Remembering that, as soon as we hear of a feeble minded child and get the papers made out, we send on the application, but we have to wait.

Now that was news to me. And while I don't want to give away a secret, and don't want you to tell it (as the lady at Pittsburgh told Capt. Lawrence that there was a great deal in getting into the ring), and that is the case a great deal at Polk. If you can't get children admitted there, and will slip around to your Representatives and tell them it is a very urgent matter, perhaps it will help very much.

Col. Gould, (Erie): The gentleman is not giving any secrets. This is a matter that has troubled nearly all portions of the State. As our President has said, Elwyn is a private institution, largely supported by the State: that is, they prefer above all things to have pay patients. As many of the insane asylums are allowed to have pay patients, when they have room, and they always have room for pay patients at three to ten dollars a week, when you can't get one in at \$1.75 a week and the county and State pay the balance. They never discharge a pay patient if they can help it.

Before Polk was established we always had trouble in getting children into Elwyn, and I finally hit upon this plan: They always reported that we had our full quota and one or two more. I wrote a letter once to Dr. Kerwin that a certain person must be taken, and sent for an application, and he wrote and stated that they were full, and when there was a vacancy they would take him. We immediately sent the boy to Elwyn. I told the person who went with him to take the boy there, and they took him. And shortly after that there was another one, and they never refused one that we sent there.

They prefer the pay patients, and will only take a limited number of the others, and they say, "If you want to pay for the others we will take them."

Now Elwyn should be made a State institution, and there should be a condition in the appropriation compelling them to first take the poor of the State, before they take other patients. Institutions can be established, if necessary, to take pay patients.

The trouble at Polk is that, while they have a large institution and grounds, they haven't accommodations yet for a very large number. They have opened it before it is completed. It is nowhere what it will be when completed.

Our President refers to adults being kept in these institutions. That is one of the serious questions that never has been solved, especially as to the women. A feeble minded girl is put in one of these institutions, and becomes full grown to womanhood, and hasn't mind enough to take care of herself, and it is absolutely unsafe to send her out at large, and it is an absolute necessity to keep her there. They ought not to be herded with the insane. They are simply feeble minded, and although the law says that any affection of the mind is insanity, yet these persons are not really insane, but they haven't mind enough to take care of themselves or resist any temptation, and the question is, isn't it better to support them in the institution than to let them go at large? New York has attempted to solve that question, but it is not satisfactory.

A Voice: Place them in the county homes.

Col. Gould: In New York they did establish an institution and put these adults in there.

Mr. R. D. McGonnigle: The question was asked, what was our representation at Elwyn. I think the State makes an appropriation of \$200,000 a year for the support of patients, and there are 201 members in the House. Therefore every county that has five members in the Legislature would be entitled to send five children to be supported out of that appropriation. But the trouble is here: Allegheny County is said, under that arrangement, to be entitled to 20 children. Of course those children would come to Polk; that would leave a vacancy in Elwyn, but the eastern counties have their quota there. Suppose they were entitled to 100 children there: if 100 were taken away, leaving 100 there belonging to the eastern counties, that wouldn't justify the eastern counties in doubling their number. That is where the trouble is. You people in the east can't get any more children there. The number of Representatives that you have in the

House is the same. When the Polk institution was arranged for my understanding was that the same proportion should exist: and at the same time the institution would take any children there to board that the Directors wanted to pay for. The Act created in the Polk institution was very broad and comprehensive. In fact it had been submitted to people who had been familiar with this kind of work, and they say it is the broadest and biggest and best Act in the United States. It provides for the care of a feeble minded child, and they also have the right to keep in custody any feeble minded man or woman who is not fit to go at large. It is a custodial institution, also.

Now it seems to me that the thing for this Association to do is to pass a resolution authorizing the executive committee to find out from the authorities of these two institutions and the Board of Public Charities, the number of children that each county is entitled to send to either of the institutions, as State patients, and then find out how many each county has got there, and then if we find that these institutions are not taking care of the number of children that they should from each county it will be well to know it.

Then ascertain just exactly where this dividing line is going to be drawn between eastern and western Pennsylvania. Elwyn should not be entitled to continue to get \$200.00 a year, and only take care of the children from the eastern counties, putting the burden of the western counties on to Polk, without getting any appropriation.

Someone ought to offer a resolution that the officers of this Association take this matter up at once and get this information and advise the members of the Association by a circular letter, as soon as they get it.

Mr. Barker: Does any Director here know the number of children that they have in either Elwyn or Polk?

Mr. Hunker, (Allegheny): I will say that Allegheny City has eleven children at Polk.

Mr. McGonnigle: Our President informs me that they have five members in the House and that they have 17 or 18 children in Elwyn. If that is so they have three times as many there as they ought to have. Now here are facts that we should have. I offer a resolution to the effect that the Executive Committee of this Association—its officers—go to work at this thing at once and get this information, and then advise the Association by circular letter what the result is.

Dr. Butler: What does Mr. McGonnigle mean when he says we are entitled to one child for each Representative from each county?

Mr. McGonnigle: I mean to continue there: If you have five Representatives from your district, you would be entitled to keep five children at Elwyn. Whatever number of children you have Representatives in the Legislature.

President Groff: I have a letter at home which informs me that the gentleman is entirely wrong, as to one child for each representative.

Mr. Barker: I visited Dr. Kerwin and tried to find out what our representation was and it seems to me he told me it was three and one-fourth for each member of the Legislature and Senate. Now here we are all confused in this matter, and understanding it different ways. Now I am satisfied we have our quota there, but from all I can find out, we never have any die there. Does anyone know of anyone ever dying there?

Mrs. Rankin: We had one die there last year.

The resolution as offered by Mr. McGonnigle is called for and agreed to.

Mrs. Roger Sherman, of Crawford County, here read the following interesting paper on "The Curfew Law and Its Effect on the Children."

The paper was received with applause:

THE CURFEW LAW AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN.

We all dislike to believe that crime among the youth in our country is increasing, yet, while statistics tell us that there are more than 200,000 of them arrested in the United States annually, all thinking people must know that they cannot too soon turn their attention toward better methods for the protection of the morals of our children. Probably no subject for consideration by philanthropic and religious bodies, in our land, is more difficult to solve than what to do with our boys and girls.

There is food for careful consideration, when we learn that at the "National Prison Congress," held two years ago, reports proved present methods entirely inadequate to reform, and a revival of the whipping post was recommended.

The juvenile reformatories all over the land are overcrowded, and affairs have become so desperate in one, at least, of our western towns, that, we are told, their police force has been strengthened by the addition of two Russian blood hounds. The first service of these dogs was to run down three young hoodlums who had defaced the floors and furniture of some public buildings. The boys were terrorized, confessed their crime and promised good behavior in the future ; but it seems incredible that in this land of Christian homes and schools, with our various and far-reaching charity organizations, that there should exist any condition so hopeless as to make it necessary to hunt down our neglected children "with vicious blood hounds, or to lash them to a post and administer a horse whipping."

Many leaders of reform, working for the uplifting of humanity, know only too well how often the first wrong step can be traced to evils encountered while loitering or loafing about the streets after dark. They may be there from mere curiosity, or in search of imaginary needed amusement. Many of them having good homes and parents whose hearts are filled with solicitude for the welfare of their children, but who are too indulgent, or too weak to enforce the necessary discipline to keep them away from temptations and in the path of virtue and honor. Others are the children of mothers who are necessarily the bread winners, and who, after the day's work is done, have no physical strength to go in search of the thoughtless, and it may be, wayward child. Should there not be some way to help such parents?

No saying is more true than that "nothing good comes to children on the streets after nine o'clock in the evening," where, with the shades of night, crime comes forth and often proves most attractive to the young and susceptible mind.

How many girls, silly and vain, but not wicked, have been ruined through the acquaintances and associations of the streets? Too young themselves, and inexperienced, to realize the dangers, they are doomed to a life of misery, which an effort on the part of those in authority might have averted.

We are told somewhere that "The base of all law is the public good, and that the Curfew Law is the most important municipal reform movement socially and morally among youths since the discovery of America."

The modern Curfew originated about thirteen years ago at Waterloo, in

the Province of Ontario, Canada, where the people and the town councils combined to formulate some plan by which the large number of young people found on the streets at night, until a late hour, should be in their homes. They hit upon the plan of ringing the town bell every night at nine o'clock, and placed the age at fifteen years as the limit for loitering upon the streets. There was no law, only a resolution which succeeding councils adopted; but the results were so good that other places soon followed, and in 1892 the Government of Ontario gave "Permissive Legislation" on the Curfew question.

The law provides that children under sixteen years of age shall not be on the streets after nine o'clock in the evening, without proper guardianship. A bell or bells shall be rung fifteen minutes before the appointed time, as a warning, to be called the Curfew Bell, after which a child is required to be at home or off the streets, except in the company of parents or adults, or bearing a written statement declaring the child to be on an emergency errand. If found on the streets after the designated time, the child is warned, and, if necessary, taken home; but after having given warning and having taken the child home, "patience may cease to be a virtue;" the members of the police force are then authorized to arrest without warning any person wilfully violating the ordinance; but the children so arrested are never placed in confinement until they have first been taken to their homes and the wishes of their parents ascertained.

Another provision of the law is that any parent or guardian, having been warned, may be summoned for permitting his child to habitually break this law, and be fined from one to twenty-five dollars.

The movement in the United States originated in 1894 with the Boys' and Girls' Employment Association, of Louisville, Ky., the President of which is Col. Alexander Hogeland.

Whether giving it the name of Curfew was wise, is as yet a disputed question; certain it is, the idea does not meet with great favor at first, but as soon as understood, its good points, and reports of good results from nearly all places where it has been tried, win the hearty support of the investigator.

Many objections are advanced to this law, none of which, however, have withstood the test of comparison and the arguments in its favor. As a people, we are jealous of our rights, and as has been said, "Some look upon the 'Curfew Bell' as a piece of socialistic presumption on the part of the municipality, as an encroachment on the rights of the head of the family to order the affairs of his own household." Notwithstanding this feeling, it is not an arbitrary measure, and, as to paternal rights and duties, a Curfew law is the joint act of parents through their city authorities, and is usually established only by the request of parents and those well qualified to judge what will be the greatest good for all, expressed in a petition or by ballot.

Some seriously object, saying the law is superficial in making the age limit under sixteen years, whereas the young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty are in greater need of discipline. There is no doubt but that this idea calls for deep reflection; however, it is not necessary for us to go back to Spartan days for the ideas of the old Greek philosophers, who tell us they

made sure of the training of their youths under ten years of age, knowing, if subjected to the proper discipline until that time, they would meet the requirements of good citizens in after life.

It has been demonstrated here in our own towns and cities, by experts in criminology, that the habitual offenders of the present day begin very early in their career of crime, and we believe if our children are kept off the streets at night until they are sixteen years old, that the greater majority of them will have formed habits which will make street loafing distasteful to them and that we will find a very great decrease in wickedness in more mature age.

We sustain the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to minors, and the anti-cigarette law, and look with favor upon compulsory education. The Curfew law no more interferes with paternal rights and personal liberties than they do.

"The school and Curfew bell are equally justified as safeguards of public morals and prospective citizenship." The first rings at a quarter before nine in the morning, calling all children to the schoolroom and its work; from that time until four in the afternoon "these children enjoy the entire freedom from crime and its social and moral blighting influence." Why not then, with the same satisfaction, ring the Curfew bell at a quarter before nine in the evening, to remind them that the time has come for them to go to their homes and to the needed rest, which nature in her mercy provides for them?

We hear doubts expressed as to the wisdom of sending boys to unhappy and unattractive homes, or worse, into dens of mischief and vice, denying them the pleasures of the well-lighted and pleasant streets of our cities; but anyone who has had the varying experience of a parent training a child from infancy, knows that even though the home is unattractive and uncomfortable, all unhappiness should be forgotten in sleep, as a necessary preparation for the school duties of the following morning.

The law is spoken of as a step back into the middle ages, but the modern Curfew is not the same as that which came into England with the Norman Conquest, nor that of the Puritans of the early days of New England. "It is simply a law in the interest of peace and morality, as is the law forbidding the sale of liquors or tobacco to minors, which has long since illustrated the duty of the State to protect immature youth."

Ridicule even has been used as a powerful agent against the law, but always by those who have nothing better to suggest as a remedy for an admitted evil. Notwithstanding all this the idea is spreading and being accepted by the very best class of people throughout our land, until at present there are nearly five hundred towns and cities in the United States having the Curfew in satisfactory operation. This is significant and noteworthy, and from reports of good results observed in all these places,—and we have not yet learned of a place where the law has been given a *fair* trial but what it has accomplished more than had been expected—we conclude that it is a good measure, and one the better class of citizens are accepting as a remedy for one of our greatest evils.

Why not look upon the law with favor as lessening the necessity of enforcing many other laws made for the preservation of the morals of our youths? No proposition can be made more plain than the fact that "most of our criminals are graduated on the streets of our cities, towns, and villages by contact with evil associations between the hours of seven and twelve o'clock at night."

The first, most important, step to be taken when desiring a Curfew ordinance is to obtain information; to educate the people to accept the idea, for it is an idea very widely misunderstood.

A speaker such as Col. Alex. Hogeland, the father of American Curfew, or Doctor William E. Craft, of the Reform Bureau, will be of great benefit; but a method adopted at my own home, a little city of about 10,000 inhabitants, has met with the best of success.

A well-informed committee of women, thoroughly interested in the movement, met with and obtained the co-operation of the women in the different churches. A petition which carried a large majority of the names of the fathers and mothers of our children was presented to the city council, and the ordinance is now looked upon as a measure which will rid the city of great evil and annoyance. In a few places the councils have, of their own accord, passed and enforced the law, but this is not usual.

Many testimonials come from all parts of the country where the Curfew is doing good work. These testimonials come from mayors of the cities, the chiefs of police, constables and people who know exactly what the working of such a law means. The Mayor of North Platte, Neb., reports that "for two years before passing the Curfew they sent fourteen girls and boys to the reform school. For two years after passing it they did not send any." The Chief of Police of Pueblo, Col., says: "Many young girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, who were formerly on the streets as late as twelve o'clock at night, now stay at home, and have been saved by the Curfew ordinance." The Mayor of Leavenworth declares it to work like a charm, saying all mothers are in love with it.

The following is from the Chief of Police of St. Joseph, Mo.: "The Curfew ordinance is an unqualified success, and I am safe in saying that at least seven-eighths of the people of this city give it their sincere and cordial approval and support. There has been a reduction of fully 50 per cent. in commitments to the reform school since its enactment. I am happy to say that it has passed the probationary period and has come forth victorious, without a scar, and has accomplished even more than its most sanguine friends expected.

Some people say such a law can be enforced only in our smaller towns and cities, but it is stretching out its arms and including some of the largest cities in America.

The Mayor of Chicago says: "The results of the enforcement of the ordinance in reducing crimes were a complete surprise both to the police and the city officials. There was a decrease of 75 per cent. in the arrests of youths in the first month of its enforcement. It has required no increase in our police force. There has been a decided improvement socially and mor-

ally, of the youth, and a pecuniary saving from the falling off in the number of arrests. This seems to be the strictly proper way of reducing crime among youths of the cities of our country." And we think the resolution passed by the sheriffs of the United States, in convention at Denver, Col., three years ago, must carry weight with it and convince similar officers all over our land that the Curfew law is a good law and worthy of their consideration. The resolution is as follows :

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this convention that the city councils of all cities should enact and enforce the Curfew ordinance with as much promptness as possible."

We hear the law spoken of as unconstitutional ; but whether it may be in others, in our own State we do not think this is true, for we are advised that such an ordinance would come under any police regulation or local law established for the maintenance of good government in our cities and towns.

In Missouri it has met with such favor that we understand an effort is being made to place the subject before the Legislature when it next convenes to ask that the Curfew become a State law.

It is a movement that is attracting the attention of a very large majority of our most thoughtful men and women, and in time it is quite probable that many states will incorporate such a law in their statutes.

The Curfew might be looked upon as a patriotic movement, for we are told that six out of every seven boys in the United States are Americans, while nine out of ten of those learning trades are the sons of foreign parents, who from fixed habits "keep their children away from the streets and all street influences after nightfall." Many of our American boys roam the streets at all hours of the night, and necessarily grow up idle and disobedient, and are soon graduated as criminals or tramps.

Objection has been made to the ringing of bells and the blowing of whistles. Col. Hogeland, to whose pamphlet, "The American Curfew," we must give credit for much that we bring you on this subject to-day, says : "No signal, no Curfew. With the Curfew signal, the boy or girl who defies home restraint cannot plead they had no knowledge of the hour."

There is a pleasing sentiment connecting the Curfew and school bells, and personally, I would favor their being the same whenever the school bell is centrally located, if there was not unnecessary labor attending ; but at night it would mean going to, opening and lighting the school building. This would be great trouble, while those in charge of the city building or the watchmen of the manufacturing plants can, and usually are willing to, perform this duty with little trouble or loss of time and without extra expense.

At St. Joseph, Mo., the Curfew hour is sounded on the bells over its engine houses. Kansas City obeys the whistles over two packing plants. At Titusville, in this State, the fire bell will be sounded,—however, in no way in confusion with a fire alarm. Nine slow strokes will be given at a quarter before nine as a simple warning that the time has come for children to go home. And at Indianapolis four of its largest manufacturing establishments *volunteer* their whistles for signals.

"Our best scholars and police officials declare the simple Curfew signal an educator of good morals, a homes builder and the most important crime reducing method of this century." May we not hope the Curfew in the future will be "recognized as the safe-guard of our Republic?"

Some teachers also tell us they see marked improvement in their pupils since the Curfew law was established in their towns: better deportment, higher standing in studies, and in every way a quicker activity of mind in receiving and imparting ideas. and from those employing young people, we hear they find them better prepared to perform their duties, better health, more cheerful and pleasant, because of having enjoyed the rest necessary to physical and mental activity.

Judge Corliss, of St. Joseph, in sustaining the constitutionality of the Curfew law, said: "The hours after nine o'clock are responsible for the ruin of more little girls than all the hours preceding, and it is during that time that boys are educated to become thieves and burglars. These little children are permitted to remain on the streets and breathe the foul and miserable oaths of night. In time they are found loitering about the saloons and disreputable houses, and learning the evil deeds that are done only in the dark."

We cannot expect this law, nor any law which man can formulate, will accomplish everything, but as Mr. Kelso, of Toronto, in his address on the subject, before the Twenty-third National Conference of Charities and Correction, said: "If its adoption and enforcement could save even a fair proportion of children from the dangers and the vices of the streets, is it not worthy of consideration as one of the forces that go to develop and build up a strong, moral, self-respecting and industrious nation?"

Mr. Wm. H. Guy, (Allegheny), here presented the following report of the Committee on Nomination of Officers:

To the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania:

Your Committee appointed to recommend officers to serve for the ensuing year, beg leave to report as follows:

President:

Louis Tisch Luzerne

Vice Presidents:

James W. Barker Delaware

Robert Smiley Allegheny

Thomas J. Hughes Cambria

John Harrington Erie

Mrs. H. L. Rankin Fayette

Mrs. L. B. Walton Chester

Secretary:

Wm. P. Hunker Allegheny

Corresponding Secretary:

L. C. Colborn Somerset

Honorary Secretary :

R. D. McGonniglePittsburg

Treasurer :

Geo. W. Beamer.....Lackawanna

Respectfully submitted :

WM. H. GUY, (*Chairman*) ;J. W. BARKER, (*Secretary*) ;

WILL BROWN,

JAMES MOORE,

MRS. E. P. NEILL,

Committee on Officers.

Mr. Louis Tisch is called for, and responds as follows :

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am very much obliged for the honor you have conferred upon me, in electing me President of this Association, and I will do my best, this coming year, as your President. Thanking you also for selecting the City of Wilkes-Barre for the next Convention, I assure you we will do our utmost to please you. We only hope that the organization will come as strong as it did some years ago. Of late years the gatherings haven't been as large. I hope to meet you all a year from this October. [Applause.]

Mr. P. H. Bridenbaugh, of Blair, in responding to the call of the President for the address on the subject, "The Necessity of Establishing a Hospital in Western Pennsylvania for Epileptics," presented the following resolution, and moved its adoption :

WHEREAS, At each Annual Convention of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania since 1895, favorable action has been taken in reference to the care and treatment of Epileptics, and,

WHEREAS, A resolution was unanimously passed by this Convention at Harrisburg, in 1898, to petition the Legislature to appropriate a sufficient sum of money and appoint a commission to select a site for the erection of a suitable hospital for the care and treatment of Epileptics in Pennsylvania, and His Excellency, Governor Wm. A. Stone, in his annual message, spoke of the necessity of such institution, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention of Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, do most urgently request the honorable State Board of Charities to recommend to the next Legislature the great necessity of appropriating money for the purchase or erection and maintenance of an Institution, in Western Pennsylvania, for the Care and Treatment of Epileptics and the Epileptic Insane.

Col. Gould, (Erie): The Committee on Resolutions prepared a resolution on that subject, but this resolution was submitted to them and we approved of it.

Dr. Wetherill: The Board of Public Charities has, for the past three seasons of the Legislature, presented a bill of this character, and no favorable action has been taken on it.

Col. Gould, in presenting the report of the Committee on Resolutions, said :

The Convention will recognize that a large number of these resolutions relate to local matters, and the chairman of the committee should not have been from this city ; but the other members of the committee saw fit to take the bits in their teeth.

The Committee on Resolutions submit the following :

First: That the thanks of the Convention are hereby tendered to the President and officers of the Association for their earnest and effective work done in making this Convention so successful.

Second: That we hereby tender our thanks to the local committee of Erie for so satisfactorily arranging for the entertainment of the delegates and comfort of the Association.

Third: That the thanks of the Convention are hereby tendered to His Honor, Mayor DePinet, and Hon. Judge Walling, for their warm and cordial greeting and welcome of the delegates to the City and County of Erie.

Fourth: That our thanks are hereby tendered to the County Commissioners of Erie for the use of the Court House for the opening and joint sessions of the Convention ; also to the Trustees of St. Paul's Church for the use of their beautiful and comfortable parish house in which to hold the sessions of the Convention ; also to Mr. Shacklett, Mr. Diehl, Mrs. Nick, Miss Miles and Mrs. Briggs for the most excellent and enjoyable music furnished at the sessions of the Association ; to the newspapers of Erie for the full, fair and impartial reports of the proceedings of the sessions of the Convention.

Fifth: That we do hereby protest against the reckless and extravagant appropriation of moneys by the State Legislature under the head of Charitable Appropriations, without a careful investigation of those in authority, whose duty it is to investigate and recommend such appropriations.

Sixth: That we do hereby call upon Congress to pass more restricted Immigration Laws, such as will prevent foreign countries from sending over and dumping on our shores all undesirable classes, who soon become a charge upon our charitable institutions and taxpayers of this country.

Seventh : That we do most earnestly endorse the system of the county care of the insane ; and the wise provisions of the Act of Assembly under which the county care is made possible, and recommend to all counties in the Commonwealth to make provision for the local care of a part or all of their insane.

Mr. Colborn : I would like to add another resolution, and no doubt all of the members will join with me heartily : that is to the Directors of the Poor of Erie County and our friend, Brother Brown, the worthy and capable and competent steward of this Home, for their generous hospitality and for the pleasant time they gave us at the Erie County Home.

The motion is agreed to unanimously.

President Groff : As to the resolution which reads, "That we do hereby protest against the reckless and extravagant appropriations of money by the State Legislature, under the head of Charitable Appropriations, without a careful investigation of those in authority, whose duty it is to investigate and recommend such appropriations," I think we ought to add, "That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the next House of Representatives."

The recommendation of President Groff is agreed to.

The Report of the Committee on Resolutions is adopted.

President Groff : I think a resolution of thanks should be extended to Mr. L. C. Colborn for the labor and time that he has expended in preparing the program of this Convention.

Col. Gould : Very few people appreciate the labor and annoyance that the Committee on Program have to contend with, to make the Convention a success, and you can see that they have largely depended upon the matters arranged for and brought before the Convention. I want to say that unless the Chairman of the Program Committee does put this work into it, our Convention would be a failure. He has a world of work to do, with the large number of delegates, and he deserves the thanks of this Convention for the manner in which he has performed his duties.

The resolution of thanks to Mr. Colborn is agreed to.

Mr. William M. Brown, of Blair, is asked to open the discussion of the subject, "The Best Means of Disposing of Traveling Paupers Who Are Trying to Get to Their Former Place of Residence," and says :

It is so nearly the time to close our session that I think you would rather adjourn than listen to any more discussion, and this subject is so closely connected with what we have already had this morning, that I will simply read a paper on this subject, if you desire.

Mr. Brown read the following paper :

THE BEST MEANS OF DISPOSING OF TRAVELING PAUPERS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET TO THEIR FORMER PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

I don't think we should call *all* persons paupers who may have to call upon the Directors of the Poor to aid them on their journey. We have different classes and grades of paupers.

We have the professional tramps, who are independent so far as transportation is concerned. They take whatever route they choose, and they usually choose the route where the residents are willing to indulge them in their vagrancy, and give them food and lodging without questioning. Such paupers have no destination to reach, but are simply beating their way and living off the industrious and more frugal people of the land. But I take it, the class of people the Committee had in mind when they assigned this subject to me, are those who want to travel by rail, and who apply to the city or county officers for transportation.

And the question which presents itself first, is, What shall we do with them? Our mission, as Directors of the Poor, is to listen to the calls that come from those in distress. And it frequently happens that not only those who are called paupers come for aid, but well to do persons; through accident, sickness or some misfortune, they find themselves left without friends or money and for the time being are in such straitened circumstances that they must apply for aid or perish.

And if they receive such aid as will help them get to their homes, they are ever grateful for the kindness bestowed, and will reimburse the one who has aided them as soon as able. Such persons might be called friends or neighbors, returning that which they have borrowed. Then there are those who may become stranded in a similar way, but who do not possess that spirit of gratitude which should prompt them to show some appreciation for what is done for them. This class greatly outnumbers the first. There are others who seem to have had no aim or purpose in life, and are continually shifting

about, and are an expense, either to their friends or the county, or both. They are brought up depending on some one else for support, and incapable of caring for themselves, and when cast out among strangers, become a charge on someone.

Others, also, who may be seeking employment. Some, when traveling, get bewildered, not knowing where they are, or who they want to see. Such are to be pitied. We find there are many reasons given by those who ask to be aided on their journey. I believe it has been the custom in many of the districts to allow the Directors to furnish transportation, at the expense of their district, to those who are in distress and may apply for such aid.

I believe there does exist a necessity for helping such persons in this way. But what are the circumstances which should demand that a Director of the Poor grant a favor of this kind? What are some of the safe-guards to keep us within the proper bounds? and to pursue the proper course in giving such aid? I think we should make a thorough investigation in each case. We should know the cause of their distressed condition. We should know something about their habits in life; their occupation; where they have been and what they have been doing. We should find out all we can about them; then in our judgment do what we think will better their condition, which may sometimes be different from what they want.

If we allow free transportation without questioning or investigating, the applicants will speedily multiply and the privilege will be greatly abused by those who are ready to take advantage of such an inviting opportunity to travel free. The great perplexing question is to find out who is worthy and who is not worthy, and next what to do with the unworthy. I believe in putting up barriers in the way of giving such aid when we are suspicious of fraud and imposition on the part of the applicant. We should have them searched, and if we find they have any articles of value about them they should be asked to surrender them to be held as a ransom until they would be ready to redeem them and thus pay for the assistance they have received. This would serve a two-fold purpose: it would cause the applicant to put forth greater effort to help himself, and the district would be the gainer in dollars and cents, and I think this would be nothing more than just.

But what shall we do with those who in our judgment we consider unworthy? They are on our hands and will be an expense to someone in the community as long as they stay. We cannot scare or drive them away; they are generally *too willing* to serve a term in jail; and we have no severer method of punishment for them. We leave this for your consideration.

If buying a ticket and passing them along to some other station would settle the case permanently, this would be the easiest and cheapest way out. But there is another party who becomes interested in such proceedings: that is the person who will have to receive him next.

I think the plan of buying tickets and sending them on to some other district, *merely* to get rid of them, is altogether wrong. And each time we violate the Golden Rule by doing so.

We know we are not doing as we would be done by, and yet we don't better their condition, but are only making trouble and expense for our brother Director.

We need better laws, and a better system of managing this whole *traveling pauper element*. It has been declared a nuisance and an evil millions of times and by millions of people, but no united and strenuous effort has ever been made to banish it. They receive a little bushwhacking occasionally, but this is done only to scare them away into some other community.

I believe some uniform system might be devised which would include all classes of traveling paupers.

The plan I would suggest, would be to have an officer in each city, borough or township appointed to take charge of this branch of work. Then have a workhouse, or place of retention, at least, where they can be cared for. Let each person be first taken before the officer in charge, who will hear his cause of distress, or reason for his becoming a charge; and then have him placed in the building provided for this purpose. He could be kept there until a complete investigation can be made, or if, in the judgment of said officer, he is in need of better care and treatment than can be there given him, it would be the duty of the officer to notify the proper authorities to take charge of the case, and communicate with persons who could give information concerning him at his former place of residence, or the place to which he would like to go; and then, when assured that he would be received and cared for when arriving at his destination, transportation could then be given.

But in no case send him away until we are satisfied we are sending him to the proper place. I believe that such a system could be arranged and an organization formed extending from city, borough and district throughout the State; and each officer in charge be supplied with a list of the organizations in the various districts. And be made so complete that they could speedily communicate with each other: that every individual in the State could be hunted down, so that everyone should have a home or settlement somewhere. I think a line of charity work could be organized, which, with an act passed legalizing it, could be made so effective for good as to banish the tramp nuisance out of existence, and as to greatly facilitate our work in caring for the worthy poor.

Mr. J. M. Force, (Erie), is called upon by President Groff, and says:

As I remember the Act known as the "Poor Act," which was vetoed by the Governor two years ago, there is a provision that when a person is to be removed from one poor district to another, that application is to be made to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and notice given to the district to which he is to be removed, thus bringing all the proceedings, in the first instance, before the Court having jurisdiction, where the rights of the respective districts can be adjusted, and the district to be charged with the care of the pauper given an opportunity to be heard in Court; and I

move you that the Committee on Resolutions prepare a bill to be reported to our Convention at the next session, providing for substantially the same conditions as contained in the bill of two years ago.

The resolution of Mr. Force is agreed to.

Mr. Force: One year ago, when we met in Harrisburg, and when the Association decided to come to Erie City, it was suggested, I think by myself, that you come early in the season; that we had facilities in the way of boating, etc. But our boats have ceased running, and we are unable to do what we had anticipated, and I think it is only due to you and to Erie County that this explanation be made.

The report of the Committee on Auditing and Finance is presented by Mr. Frederick K. Fuller, who says:

I wish to state that if the districts that are in arrears will pay their assessment the Association will be out of debt. It is due to Mr. McGonnigle that these be paid.

Upon motion of Mr. Colborn the report is received and adopted.

The report follows:

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

GEO. W. BEEMER, TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF THE POOR AND CHARITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 10, 1899.

The Treasurer charges himself with money and assessments received as follows:

1898.

By Cash Received:

Dec. 10,	Central Poor District, Luzerne County.....	\$15 00
10,	House of Refuge, Philadelphia, Pa.....	5 00
12,	Allegheny County Home.....	15 00
19,	Directors of Poor, Westmoreland County.....	15 00
20,	“ “ Delaware County, Lima, Pa.....	15 00
21,	Department of Charities, Pittsburg, Pa.....	20 00
21,	Directors of Poor, Berks County.....	15 00
22,	“ “ Blair County.....	15 00

Dec.	22,	Children's Aid Society, Cameron County.....	5 00
	28,	Middle Coal Field District, Rockport, Pa.....	10 00
	28,	Children's Aid Society, Crawford County.....	5 00
	31,	Directors of Poor, Cambria County.....	15 00
1899.			
Jan.	2,	Children's Aid Society, Fayette County.....	5 00
	5,	Friends Asylum, Philadelphia, Pa.....	5 00
	5,	Trustees of Reform School, Morganza, Pa.....	10 00
	5,	Directors of Poor, Dauphin County.....	15 00
	5,	" Danville and Mahoning District.....	10 00
	5,	" Poor, Beaver County, Beaver Falls, Pa.....	15 00
	6,	Trustees of Blind Institute, Pittsburg, Pa.....	5 00
	7,	Scranton Poor District.....	20 00
	7,	Coal Township Poor District, Shamokiu, Pa.....	10 00
	7,	State Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa.....	15 00
	7,	Trustees School Feeble Minded, Elwyn.....	15 00
	7,	Western Pennsylvania Institute Deaf and Dumb.....	10 00
	16,	Department of Charities, Allegheny.....	10 00
	16,	Directors of the Poor, Montgomery County.....	15 00
	21,	Department of Charities, Philadelphia, Pa.....	20 00
	23,	Directors of Poor, York County.....	15 00
	24,	" " Erie.....	15 00
	27,	" " Chester County.....	10 00
	27,	" " Blakely.....	10 00
Feb.	2,	" " Lancaster County.....	15 00
	8,	" " Auburn and Rush.....	10 00
	8,	" " Carbondale.....	5 00
	9,	" " Adams County.....	5 00
	11,	" " Germantown.....	15 00
	20,	" Children's Aid Society, Washington County....	5 00
	20,	" " " Somerset, Pa.....	5 00
Mar.	18,	" Poor, Mercer County.....	5 00
	25,	" Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania.....	15 00
April	11,	" Feeble Minded Institute, Polk... ..	10 00
	3,	" Philadelphia Society For Organizing Charity,	5 00
May	5,	" Poor, Jenkins and Pittston.....	15 00
Aug.	28,	" " Fayette County.....	15 00
Sept.	7,	" " Lebanon County.....	10 00
	9,	" " Warren County.....	5 00
	9,	" " Huntingdon County.....	10 00
	19,	" Board of Public Charities.....	20 00
	23,	" Poor, Milton, Pa.....	5 00
	27,	" Children's Aid Society, Western Pennsylvania,	10 00
	27,	" Poor, Franklin County.....	5 00
	28,	" " Mayfield District.....	5 00
Oct.	2,	Received of L. C. Colborn	
	2,	" Children's Aid Society, Chester County.....	5 00

Oct. 2,	Directors of Poor, Washington County.....	15 00
2,	“ “ Bedford County	15 00
2,	“ “ Somerset County.....	10 00
2,	“ “ Green County	15 00
Total.....		\$650 00

The Treasurer claims credit for the following moneys paid out as per receipts approved by the President :

1898.		<i>To Cash Paid Out.</i>	
Dec. 16,	To cash to J. A. Scranton, printing.....	\$	6 50
March 8,	“ check to Myers & Shinkle Co., reports		269 25
8,	“ “ to Ira E. Briggs, reporting proceedings		120 00
8,	“ cash to J. F. Scragg, expense to National Convention..		35 00
Sept. 28,	“ Whitehead & Hoag Co., badges and freight		19 25
Oct. 2,	“ L. C. Colborn, miscellaneous		83 22
2,	“ James W. Walk, expenses to National Convention		20 00
9,	“ Geo. W. Beemer, services and expenses.....		25 00
9,	“ postage		5 00
9,	“ type writing.....		5 00
Total.....			\$588 22

There is a balance on account of \$76.36 that would appear to be due the Myers & Shinkle Co. for bills which were contracted before Treasurer Beemer's term, that is still unpaid. There is also an account of \$200 due R. D. McGonnigle, for cash advanced, also contracted before Treasurer Beemer's term: still unpaid. Also a claim due L. G. Gray of \$25, contracted before Treasurer Beemer's term: still unpaid—making a total of bills payable of \$301.37, with a balance in Treasurer's hands of \$61.78, to apply on said bills payable. There is due from different Districts, on last assessment, and unpaid, \$250, and have been notified the second time to settle.

We have examined foregoing statement of account and vouchers, in hand of Mr. Geo. W. Beemer, Treasurer, and find it correct as stated, and is hereby approved.

FREDK. FULLER,
JOHN L. SMITH,
J. W. PECK,

Auditing Committee.

Mr. Frederick Fuller, (Lackawanna), on the subject, “Relation of Intemperance to Pauperism and Effects on Children” :

It is too late to talk much more. Four years ago was my first experience as a delegate to these Conventions. A gentleman who had been a member of this Association for twelve or fifteen years rose and asked this question, “What are we here for: what good

is being done here?" And he says, "I have been attending these Conventions twelve or fifteen years and haven't learned the first thing." I was surprised, and I wondered if it was that kind of an Association, and then I thought he was reversing the old adage, "Never too Old to Learn." And I thought, too, that perhaps it was not the fault of the Convention: and then it occurred to me that he was something like the people on the ship that was sailing off the coast of South America, and they were famishing for a drink of water, and signalled a distant ship, and received the response, "You are sailing in the mouth of the Amazon, in fresh water: dip your buckets." And it occurred to me that if this gentleman had only dipped his bucket in this ocean of information he would have been filled. I am not at all personal. If there is anyone here who thinks he is included in this illustration, let him do as the boy did in the school when the teacher was threshing him, who broke out into a loud laugh and says, "See here, teacher, you are licking the wrong boy!" [Laughter.]

Now as to my text: "Intemperance and Its Relation to Pauperism," I won't talk two minutes. If there was no sin in this world there would be no pauperism. That intemperance is the curse of the world you all know. Statistics say that 100,000 drunkards die every year in the United States. We know further that at the age of 50 the expectancy of life of the intemperate man is only 4 years: of the temperate man at that age it is 20 years. I believe that intemperance is the father of pauperism in this land. I think the majority of cases that apply to us for out-door relief come from women whose husbands are drunkards. It is not necessary to discuss this matter before you: you all know it is the most gigantic curse of the land to-day. We have to take care of the victims of intemperance. How much better it would be if we would use our efforts towards striking down the *cause*? An ounce of prevention—in this matter—is worth a ton of cure.

Now the effect on children: I won't talk about that. I refer you to Dr. Barr's paper read in the Convention four years ago, the ablest paper on the subject I ever read or heard read in this Convention.

As to heredity, that law by which all creatures endued with life tend to repeat themselves in their descendants : that is a law, and you cannot change it. Remember the old proverb, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the childrens' teeth are on edge."

Old Jacob hung up different colored branches, before his cattle when they came up to drink, and what was the result? Speckled, spotted and streaked. Now that is the same law. We have to meet this law.

The Germans have believed in the theory that beer-drinking will stop drunkenness, but they too have come to the conclusion that drunkenness is so on the increase in Germany that they have become alarmed and have issued a decree that after a certain time all habitual drunkards shall be locked up and kept locked up, until they are capable of taking care of themselves. Now that is effectual prohibition.

If we can put all our energies in the direction of stopping drunkenness, our almshouses and insane asylums will lose many of their inmates.

Now ladies and gentlemen, don't go away from this Convention feeling as the old gentleman whom I mentioned did, in the afternoon of his life. I think all you have to do is to dip down into the sea of valuable information and carry the facts and information home with you, and you will be better prepared to meet the duties imposed upon you as a guardian of the poor and the insane and leave the result to him who overrules all. [Applause.]

Mr. H. W. Ochse, of Allegheny, read the following interesting paper :

THE LEGAL RIGHT AND AUTHORITY OVER CHILDREN PLACED IN CARE OF CHILDRENS' AID SOCIETY.

The right of the State to supervisory care over infants has always been conceded. As between contending parents, the State selects and gives the custody of the infant to either or both, or to one not of kin to the infant, as may seem for the best interest and ultimate advantage of the infant. As to those who are unfortunate, or born of parents in destitute circumstances, or so conditioned as to be without the care and direction of a parent, the State has always extended its hand and thrown around them its protection.

Such care by the State is indispensable. The stability of the Government and the perpetuation of its principles depend upon a citizenship wisely reared and carefully educated. As early as 1836, an Act of Assembly was passed placing such infants under the care and supervision of the Directors or Guardians of the Poor; and by that Act, such Directors, Guardians or Overseers of the Poor were directed "To put out as apprentices all poor children whose parents are dead or unable to maintain them." By virtue of that law, Overseers of the Poor, with the assent of its parents, might bind any infant as an apprentice; and without such assent, might bind all infants which were a charge upon the poor direct, or who had received outdoor relief.

It was the duty of the Overseer or Director of the Poor to visit and ascertain the treatment of the apprentice by his master, to see that the covenants of the master were substantially complied with, and if wilfully violated to the injury of the child's health, to institute necessary proceedings to set aside the indenture. This law, though salutary in provisions, does not seem to have been well complied with, and in consequence thereof, the General Assembly of 1883 passed a law prohibiting the detaining of children in alms and poorhouses, beyond a limited period.

Under this Act it became and is now the duty of overseers or other persons having charge of the poor to place all infants over two years of age in some respectable family, or in an educational institution or home for children; and the further duty is imposed upon the Directors of the Poor to visit such child or children, in person or by agent, at least once in every six months, and make all needful inquiry as to their treatment and welfare.

From about 1875 there had steadily grown up throughout the Commonwealth societies formed by charitable persons, principally mothers, with the object of caring for destitute children. These societies gradually extended their usefulness, until the Legislature, appreciating the importance and good of their work, passed an Act vesting in certain officers the authority to commit to incorporated societies (1) any minor, who, by reason of incorrigible, unmanageable, vicious or wayward conduct is beyond the control of the parent or guardian, or (2) where the parent of such minor, by reason of vagrancy, incorrigible or vicious conduct, criminal offense, moral depravity or cruelty is unfit to have the training and control of such minor, or (3) where the said minor is a vagrant and has no parent or guardian capable or willing to restrain, manage and take proper care of such minor.

It will be noticed that the provisions of this Act of Assembly are very broad. The number of causes for which an infant may be committed to the care of such a society is numerous, and touch almost every cause and condition which, if an infant be permitted to remain, will result in detriment either to the morals or health or the future of the infant.

The object of said societies is to provide for the neglected and destitute children. This is accomplished, first, by finding responsible families willing to help the infant, or, for a remuneration, to board and care for them. A society organized for such purposes has the custody of the child, and in so far as is necessary for its care and protection, has the same rights as a parent. It may adopt all rules needful for the proper care and protection of the

infant and necessary for the regulation of its conduct, and by its proper officer, may enforce obedience, on the part of the infant, to such rules and regulations, in the same manner and with the same penalty as a parent might under like conditions.

It is the duty of the society to see that the estate of the child, if any it has, is properly and safely guarded, and in all respects that the financial interests of the infant are protected. The society may commit the custody of the child to any respectable family, providing only that the families be of the same religious denomination as that to which the parents of the child belonged, or to a properly constituted incorporated home of like principles.

In brief, the Society should, so long as the infant is under its immediate care, give to the infant the careful and thoughtful attention of an attentive parent. In transferring the infant, a family should be selected whose situation in life and reputation for kindness and consideration would insure to the infant proper care, adequate maintenance and fair opportunity for a favorable development both in morals and education. For these purposes and to this end the legal powers vested in the societies are full and adequate. It is the duty of the society to place the support of the child upon the relatives or parents.

The societies are open to visitation by such person or persons as from time to time are appointed for the purpose by the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county, and it is the duty of these visitors to visit and report upon the character of the homes or families in which such children are placed at least once in every six months.

The object sought to be obtained by all legislation, both past and present, is to give the unfortunate, helpless and hapless infant that care which his condition in life denies to him. To remove the child from an atmosphere of social moral depaavity, to give him the advantage of a cultured and refined home atmosphere, is the first step to the making of a good citizen.

Formerly this duty was committed to the Directors and Overseers of the Poor; now, in a great measure and almost wholly, this duty has been performed by the mothers and charitable persons who have formed Children's Aid Societies. The good so far done by such societies is incalculable. Hundreds of children have been the recipients of the benevolence and the care of the societies. They have been ably conducted; and managed with wisdom, and their work and worth recognized and commended by the people of every locality.

With unselfish devotion good women all over the State have contributed their time, patience and of their means, to saving the helpless infants from their degradation and to opening the way to lives of usefulness. It is not doubted that the wisdom, moderation and zeal which has guided the societies in the past, will not desert them in the future.

H. W. OCHSE,
Allegheny, Pa.

President Groff: I think before we close our session we ought to hear from Mr. McGonnigle, of Allegheny, the father of this Association.

Mr. R. D. McGonnigle, who was received with applause, spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It seems that I was on the program yesterday to make an address, but I was not here and therefore you did not hear that address. This is a sort of benediction, or a dismissal. Some people enquire what good this Association has done, and what good these Conventions do. To one who has been familiar with the work of the charities of the State for over twenty-five years, as I have, I can hardly tell you, in a few words, how much good I see it has done.

When I look back twenty-five years and recollect the condition of the insane at that time; when I look back and see the condition of the poor children at that time, and the general condition that the almshouses were in then, and the many improvements that have come since that time, I realize that this Association has been one of the means of bringing about many great reforms in the State. This is an educational work. You cannot pass a resolution and say, "We will do so and so": you have to educate the people up to it. The next year it will be a little better, and so on, and it is only after a number of years that the work of such an Association can be seen and felt. So you must not be discouraged; and do not go home and say, "I don't see what we have done." You have probably done something which does not appear at first. These little quiet talks among the members are where the good work is accomplished.

Twenty-five years ago the almshouses were filled with children, being raised up as paupers. To-day we have a law on the statute books prohibiting their detention in the almshouses, and the report of the Children's Aid Society indicates to me the extent of the work the women are doing in taking the children out of the almshouses and putting them into good homes. That one thing has justified all the expense of this Association.

Another thing was that it was costing us too much to take care of our insane. It used to be \$3.75 a week, and now it costs \$1.25 a week. The Act making that change was passed by this Association.

Then we have the institution at Polk for the care of the feeble-minded, and the insane asylum at Wernersville; and we have the Wisconsin plan adopted, which is going to work out an entire revolution in the care of the insane in the State. The chronic insane will be taken care of in the counties and we will have room in the hospitals and asylums for the new cases coming on. That has grown out of the work of this Association.

Sometimes we wonder that we don't work faster. You can't work faster. You have to work slowly.

Every Director of the Poor ought to feel an interest in coming to these Conventions. Every district should send a representative. I would like Dr. Wetherill to use his influence with the Board of Public Charities, and sort of tell these people they must come. They are a sort of father of the flock here, and if they would say, "We want you to go," I think we would get more representation.

Another thing is, we should have an institution for the care of epileptics. During the last five years there have been two such institutions established in the State: the one at Rochester is founded on the plan of a similar one in Germany. I think we ought to have a colony similar to the colony in New York State, for the care of epileptics. That is the live question you have before you now.

Another thing: we ought to have a State public school. There are a lot of boys and girls in the State who are in need of a little polishing off. We have the foundation for this in the Soldiers' Orphan Schools, as they now exist. Open them up for the dependent children who are growing up in idleness and vice.

Pennsylvania, you know, practically says to every boy and girl, "We will do nothing for you until you commit a crime, then we will send you to the reform school." Now we want them to say, "We will take care of you before you commit a crime: we will put you in the way of becoming a good man or woman," before they commit a crime.

Now these are some things you must do.

So that looking back and seeing the changes and improvements that have come in all the branches looking to the care of the dependents and delinquents, I am satisfied that what we heard

this morning, that "The world is better to-day than it ever has been," is true. It suggests to me that the condition of the almshouses of the State is better: the inmates are better fed and better clothed. I remember the time distinctly, within twenty-five years, when I visited a home and went home with a sorrowful heart to think that the poor of that region were cared for in that manner. It would be a rare exception to find such a state of affairs now existing, and nine-tenths of all this improvement has come about through this Association and these meetings.

So you have all this to look back to. Then you have to look forward to the things you ought to bring about: the epileptic asylum, the State public school, and the county plan of caring for the chronic insane, and other things I might mention. It is getting too late to say much more.

In conclusion, I want this Association to go on. I personally have no official connection with any institution in the State. I want to see this Association go on. As I said last year at Harrisburg, I may not be with you again. Many of the changes I then said were coming have come to me, and I have just returned from a trip to the far west, and in all probability am going back again before long, and matters are shaping themselves so that at this time next year I may not be a resident of the State of Pennsylvania. I may be living away out at the Golden Gate, in California. I think that will come; but no difference where I am, in October I shall always want to know that this Association is continuing in the work that they have begun and in the work I think they have done fairly well, and in a work in which I don't think any member should feel dissatisfied with the results. So if I am not with you next year you will understand I am thinking of you and wondering what you are doing, and you will always have my best wishes.

I hope everyone of you will help Mr. Colborn and the rest of the officers in arranging the meeting for next year. There is an enormous amount of detail work about it, and the man charged with it needs the assistance of the members of the Association. He cannot do it alone, and if you will put your shoulder to the wheel and help him your meetings in the future will be as pleasant and as useful as they have been in the past. I thank you for your attention. [Applause.]

President Groff here declared the Convention adjourned.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF DISTRICTS AND SOCIETIES.

Presented during the sessions to be printed in proceedings :

ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

The Allegheny County Home, located at Woodville, Pa., was opened for the reception of inmates on September 18, 1854.

The number of inmates admitted during the year ending October 1, 1899, was : Males, 298 ; females, 111 ; children, 73—a total of 482.

Of these 239 were native and 243 foreign born.

The number of inmates remaining in the Home on October 1st, 1899, was 351—122 native and 229 foreign born.

The average weekly cost per capita for the year ending December 31st, 1898, was \$1.42½.

Paid during the year 1898 :

For repairs and material.....	\$ 6,480 60
For support of inmates in the Home.....	21,608 81
For out-door relief, doctors and burials, &c.....	19,014 09
For insane patients in hospitals, etc.....	17,691 25

Total expenditures for 1898.....\$62,479 75

The new Insaue Asylum is progressing and will be ready for occupancy about April 1st. Cost about \$325,000.

Officers—S. W. Lea, Superintendent ; Mrs. E. H. Lea, Matron ; Mrs. Sarah Heil and Miss Ida M. Whiteman, Assistant Matrons ; Dr. W. A. Jones, Resident Physician ; C. S. Rickenbach, Farmer ; Thomas Williard, Engineer.

Directors—W. H. Guy, President, Coraopolis ; H. W. Ochse, Secretary, Etna ; R. Smiley, McKeesport.

BERKS COUNTY.

BERKS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Berks County Almshouse which was organized by a special law, approved March 29, 1824, is located three miles southwest of Reading, the County seat, near the Reading and South Western Electric Railroad. The Home consists of two large substantial brick buildings with furnished accommodation for 400 inmates, heated with steam and illuminated with gas, and is located on a farm of 514 acres, of which about 375 are cultivated.

During the year ending September 30, 1899, an average of 312 inmates were supported in the institution. Number of inmates in Home September 30th, 1899, 275. One hundred and twelve insane patients are at present maintained at the Harrisburg and Wernersville State Asylums, 31 children at the Home for Friendless Children, Reading, 6 children by the Children's Aid Society at Philadelphia, and 10 feeble-minded children at Elwyn Home.

Since the last meeting of the convention at Harrisburg, we beg leave to report that on November 30th, 1898, we had the misfortune of having our large barn totally destroyed by fire. We have since then replaced it with a new and larger, substantial structure (140 ft. long and 60 ft. wide) fitted with all the conveniences desirable for the housing of cattle and farm products, adding materially to the value and comfort of the institution. The grand jurors approved the improvements, reported the institution in perfect condition, and commended the Directors and Officers for their efficient management.

EXPENDITURES.

Total cost of maintaining the poor of the county for the year ending September 30, 1899.....\$61,312 67

Out-door relief.....\$11,421 00

Out-door funeral expenses..... 275 25

Maintaining insane and children in homes. 11,672 70

Other out-door expenses..... 409 89 \$23,778 84

Aggregate cost for maintaining inmates at Home....\$37,533 83

Current receipts from products of the farm, etc., deducted..... 5,535 24

Net cost for maintaining inmates of Home.....\$31,998 59

Directors—John A. Hiester, 20 N. Third St., Reading; Daniel M. Herbein, Fleetwood; Cornelius Blatt, Womelsdorf.

Officers—Oliver C. Sitler, Steward, Shillington; Frank W. Schwartz, Clerk, Shillington; H. F. Rentschler, Physician, Shillington; Ira G. Kutz, Solicitor, Reading.

CAMBRIA COUNTY.

CAMBRIA COUNTY HOME.

Cambria County Home is located one and a half miles east of Ebensburg. The farm contains 160 acres in a high state of cultivation. We sank a well this summer and have excellent water for the supply of the house.

We constructed a cave to keep the potatoes and other vegetables. Also a large porch facing the west.

Average of inmates in the house during the year ending September 30, 1899, 115.

Directors—James Moore, Johnstown, Pa.; James Somerville, Sylvas, Pa.; Thos. L. Jones, Ebensburg, Pa.

Steward—Thos. J. Hughes.

Matron—Mrs. Thos. Hughes.

CARBON COUNTY.

MIDDLE COAL FIELD POOR DISTRICT.

December 31st, 1898.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last report.....	\$12,450 73
Joseph Gormley, Summit Hill, 1895.....	122 18
David Reese, Mauch Chunk Twp., 1895.....	191 88
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1895.....	58 82
C. E. Foster, East Mauch Chunk, 1896.....	41 17
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1896.....	142 70
Joseph Gormley, Summit Hill, 1896.....	25 42
David Reese, Mauch Chunk Twp., 1896.....	41 58
S. W. Hofard, Weatherly, 1896.....	330 00
W. N. Fichter, Banks Twp., 1896.....	58 89
A. A. Bachman, Freeland, 1897.....	699 82
J. M. Williams, Beaver Meadow, 1897.....	129 19
C. E. Foster, East Mauch Chunk, 1897.....	587 78
C. J. Creveling, Hazleton City, 1897.....	513 49
James J. Heeney, Lehigh Twp., 1897.....	57 92
John S. Ronemus, Mauch Chunk Twp., 1897.....	297 89
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1897.....	540 50
John J. Hackett, Banks Twp., 1897.....	268 27
W. H. Reinbold, Jeddo, 1897.....	18 94
William Smyrl, Summit Hill, 1897.....	122 71
Thomas Rogan, Lansford, 1897.....	134 35
John Potters, Lansanne Twp., 1897.....	43 66
W. E. Oberrender, Foster Twp., 1897.....	794 77
Patrick Smith, Hazel Twp., 1897.....	1,922 43
Patrick McKenna, West Hazleton, 1897.....	182 22
Frank P. Hoover, Weatherly, 1897.....	734 67
Frank P. Hoover, Weatherly, 1898.....	1,126 28
J. M. Williams, Beaver Meadow, 1898.....	181 00
C. E. Foster, East Mauch Chunk, 1898.....	1,663 46
C. J. Creveling, Hazleton City.....	10,080 01
James J. Heeney, Lehigh Twp., 1898.....	105 47
John S. Ronemus, Mauch Chunk Twp., 1898.....	3,925 62
C. D. Culver, Mauch Chunk, 1898.....	3,311 30
John J. Hackett, Banks Twp., 1898.....	1,583 46
W. H. Reinbold, Jeddo, 1898.....	256 84
William Smyrl, Summit Hill, 1898.....	3,277 66
Thomas Rogan, Lansford, 1898.....	3,574 82
Daniel Kline, Freeland, 1898.....	1,397 97
John Potters, Lansanne Twp., 1898.....	40 00
W. E. Oberrender, Foster Twp., 1898.....	2,592 75
Patrick Smith, Hazle Twp., 1898.....	6,300 39
Patrick McKenna, West Hazleton, 1898.....	657 68
Maintenance of Mrs. H. Mitchell.....	35 40
“ Amanda Hinkle.....	156 00

Maintenance of Sophia Larson.....	156 00	
“ Peter O'Brien.....	40 06	
“ Amanda Roth.....	98 00	
“ John Sewack.....	2 89	
“ Mary Young.....	28 75	
“ Joseph Mischel.....	9 35	
“ Gustav Hensel.....	144 00	
Fines by Alderman Heidenrich.....	2 35	
Unseated land tax from Luzerne county.....	1,172 42	
		\$62,431 91

DISBURSEMENTS.

Auditing expenses.....	\$ 30 00	
Conveying paupers.....	166 76	
Conveying insane.....	129 34	
Clothing, boots and shoes.....	463 02	
Dry goods and notions.....	460 31	
Election expenses.....	419 40	
Farm expenses.....	827 09	
Farm implements.....	270 30	
Fuel and light.....	1,309 67	
Convention expenses and assessment.....	76 41	
Groceries and provisions.....	5,272 89	
House fixtures.....	224 00	
House expenses.....	400 71	
Maintenance of children.....	553 00	
Maintenance of feeble-minded children.....	120 00	
Hospital expenses.....	211 18	
Insurance.....	62 50	
Interest and discount.....	190 41	
Improvements, new reservoir.....	151 60	
Legal fees and expenses.....	75 80	
Medicines.....	490 78	
Maintenance of insane, Danville.....	4,596 25	
Maintenance of insane, Wernersville.....	625 71	
Office expenses.....	197 25	
Tobacco.....	389 95	
Paid other poor districts.....	217 31	
Out-door relief and burials.....	23,449 72	
Printing.....	416 00	
Repairs to buildings.....	439 88	
Balance of Steward's salary 1897 and paid in 1898...	599 86	
Salaries and expenses.....	1,220 00	
Out-door medical attendance.....	60 00	
Live stock.....	35 00	
Amount paid Geo. T. Wells as Steward's expenditures.....	4,050 00	
	\$48,192 10	
Balance in Hazleton National Bank.....	14,239 81	
		\$62,431 91

CHESTER COUNTY.

CHESTER COUNTY HOME.

The Chester County Home Farm now consists of about four hundred acres, located six and a half miles from West Chester, near the center of the county. During this year the average number of inmates was 219. The Home is lighted by electricity and heated by steam, which is also used for cooking and washing. A Hospital for the Insane, located on an adjoining hillside about three hundred yards west of the Home, is now nearly completed, and will accommodate from 250 to 275 patients, of which number about 160 are now in the State Asylum, from which they will be removed as soon as the new building is ready for their use.

The cost of maintaining each inmate of the Home this year was about \$1.35 per week. The affairs of both institutions are managed by a board of three directors : J. Preston Thomas, Whitford ; Samuel Wickersham, New Garden ; John L. Smith, Chester Springs.

Superintendent—W. Harmar Davis.

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

THE CRAWFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Crawford County Almshouse is situated in the central part of the County. It contains 235 acres of land, 135 under cultivation. There are 104 inmates, 35 females and 68 males, and 1 boy 16 years old. We found a home for 1 boy and took 2 boys to Polk. The tramps are quite a nuisance. We do not feed and house many of them. We have two men hired on the farm ; a man and his wife to cook for the inmates, and two girls in Superintendent's department. Have had, up to the present time, about 1,200 visitors during this year, and gave meals to more than half that number.

We make about 233 pounds butter a month. Farm produced this year 100 tons of hay, 167 bushels wheat, 1,200 bushels oats, 2,000 bushels corn, 1,125 bushels potatoes, 40 bushels onions, 1,500 head of cabbage, 10 bushels beans, 250 bushels turnips and other garden vegetables.

There are 51 head of cattle on the farm, 5 horses and 28 hogs.

Directors—O. P. Blakeslee, Gaylord Smith, John Hotchkiss.

Superintendent—W. H. Graham.

DAUPHIN COUNTY.

DAUPHIN COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Dauphin County Almshouse is located two (2) miles east of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania ; was opened 1806.

The number of inmates in said institution September 30, 1899, was 161, of which 103 were males, 58 females. We also have 27 insane at Almshouse. 13 males and 14 females.

In the Hospital for Insane we have 46 patients : 20 males and 26 females.

Twenty-one children in Children's Home at Harrisburg: one (1) at Pennsylvania Training School at Elwyn, Pa., and six (6) at Home for Feeble-Minded at Polk, Pa., making a total of 262 under our care at present.

Salaries and services	\$ 6,133 30
Out-Door Relief	11,170 89
Cost maintaining Almshouse, 1898.....	24,758 06
Cost per capita.....	2 52

The farm of nearly 180 acres has yielded a bountiful harvest.

DELAWARE COUNTY.

DELAWARE COUNTY HOME.

Report of the Directors of the Poor of Delaware County, Pa.:

DR.

To cash balance on hand January 1st, 1898.....	\$ 939 37
“ “ received from County Commissioners	31,200 00
“ “ “ “ Board of Insane.....	476 36
“ “ “ “ farm.....	239 80
“ “ “ “ other sources.....	64 47
	<u>\$32,920 00</u>

CR.

By Out-Door Relief.....	\$ 2,621 16
“ Board of Insane patients' expenses,	
Norristown Hospital.....	10,349 00
Wernersville Hospital	1,251 43
Childrens' Aid Society.....	87 50
Northern Home For Friendless Children.....	243 42
Philadelphia Almshouse	96 08
Montgomery County Almshouse.....	11 31
Removals and Examinations	298 15
By grocery and meat account.....	5,251 76
“ clothing, dry goods and shoes	1,623 55
“ coal account.....	1,152 33
“ drug account.....	187 17
“ furniture and carpets	539 17
“ salaries and wages account.....	4,916 25
“ farm, feed and sundry account	2,218 39
“ improvements.....	990 24
“ sundry orders amounting to.....	645 53
“ outstanding orders from 1897.....	28 00
“ cash on hand December 31st, 1898.....	409 56
	<u>\$32,920 00</u>

Weekly cost per capita \$1.76

STATEMENT OF INMATES RECEIVED IN THE HOME

DURING THE YEAR 1898.

In the Home, January 1st, 1898.....	176
Admitted during the year	226
Born during the year.	4
Total.....	406
White.....	381
Colored.....	25
	406
Discharged, eloped and removed.....	197
Died.....	24
Remaining in the Home, December 31, 1898.....	185
	406
Lodgings furnished tramps.....	2,057
Meals furnished tramps	2,890
Families assisted outside Home.....	213
<i>Directors</i> —Razell E. James, W. Glover Clark, Newton P. West.	
<i>Officers</i> —W. Glover Clark, President, Bethel ; Newton B. West, Treasurer, Swarthmore ; Razell E. James, Secretary, Chester.	

FAYETTE COUNTY.

FAYETTE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Fayette County Almshouse, located one and a half miles east of Uniontown, the county seat of Fayette, is a large and commodious four-story brick building, lighted by gas and heated by steam. At a cost of nearly three thousand dollars, there was added last year to the general improvements a water supply unexcelled by anything we know of similar. The farm appurtenant contains 129 acres and is very productive.

The farm is operated by a chief farmer, assisted by all male inmates able to work. At times the help thus employed is adequate to our needs ; at other times a scarcity of labor exists. The general supervision of the farm is under the Steward who is elected by the Board of Directors.

The County's insane are kept in the wings of the first floor of the Almshouse, but are not provided for as might be wished. It is to be hoped that before another year our County will erect a more suitable place for their reception.

At present there are in the Home 131 inmates, as follows :

Foreign born.....	60
Native born.....	71

131

Of the insane we have as follows :

At Dixmont.....	15
At Wernersville.....	1
At County Almshouse.....	26
Children in school for feeble-minded at Polk, Venango County, Pa.....	15
Children at Home in care of Fayette County Aid Society...	17
Children at Almshouse being under one year of age, with their mothers.....	2
	— 50

Making a grand total of 181 persons in care of the County.

The cost per capita for their maintenance is \$1.25 per week. The total cost of maintenance of the Home for last year was \$22,500.

The present management of the Home is as follows :

Directors—George H. Woods, President ; J. M. Bates, Clark Haggerty.

Officers—S. D. Newcomer, Steward ; Mrs. S. D. Newcomer, Matron ; Lizzie Newcomer, Clerk ; Wm. J. Kyle, Attorney ; J. W. Parkshall, Physician.

GREENE COUNTY.

GREENE COUNTY HOME.

The Greene County Home for indigent poor is located three and one-half miles ($3\frac{1}{2}$) East of Waynesburg, the county seat, on a farm of 147 acres, under good state of cultivation. It is under the superintendence of a board of three directors, who hold monthly meetings at the County Home on the first Monday of each month. They employ a steward and matron, who manage the House inmates and farm.

Under the present management of the farm it supplies considerable toward the support of the inmates, of whom some are helping to do the work on the farm.

We have 61 inmates in the Home : 24 at Dixmont, 14 at Polk, 2 at Morganza.

Total cost for County Home, Children's Home, Out-Door Relief, salaries, Dixmont bills and Polk bills was \$14,300.

The present persons now in charge :

Directors—Hubert Huffman, Nettle Hill, Pa. ; D. P. Johnson, Waynesburg, Pa.

Officers—D. M. Thompson, Deer Lick, Pa., Secretary to Poor Board ; John M. Scott, Steward for Home ; Mrs. John M. Scott, Matron ; T. L. Blair, M. D., Doctor ; J. A. J. Buehannan, S. M. Smith, Attorneys.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

HILLSIDE HOME.

This poor district comprises the City of Scranton and the Borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County.

The Home is located in Newton Township, nine miles northwest of Scranton, on the line of D. L. & W. R. R.

A more detailed description of the Home is given in the proceedings of convention of 1898.

Expenditures of District for year ending December 31st, 1898, \$91,719.37.

During the present year the grading of the grounds about the buildings has been completed, and an iron fence nine feet high, enclosing an area of about thirteen acres, has been erected at a cost of \$8,700, thus giving us a beautiful lawn and adding greatly to the general appearance of the place.

The original male building has been remodeled and fitted up as an Epileptic Ward at a cost of \$4,000 and is a much desired improvement.

A contract has recently been awarded for the erection of a refrigerator and cold storage building; the cost will be about \$4,000, and the building will be a model of its kind.

Many minor improvements have been made about the institution.

The population of the Home on September 30th, 1899, was 422, classified as follows:

In Hillside Home Almshouse, 105 males and 57 females—total 162.

In Hillside Home Hospital for Insane, 131 males and 129 females—total 260.

Average cost of inmates of institution is \$1.33 per week, exclusive of farm products.

Average cost of attendants in Hospital per month is \$20.72.

Average number of patients to attendant is 14 4-9.

Average cost of attendant per patient is \$17.21 per year.

Directors—Reese G. Brooks, President; Frederick Fuller; Thomas Shotton; W. S. Langstaff, W. A. Paine, M. D., P. J. Murphy and Frank J. Dickert.

Officers—George W. Beemer, Superintendent; Mrs. Jennie Beemer, Matron; A. Strang, M. D., Resident Physician.

The officers of the District are: C. J. Gillespie, Secretary; E. M. Vernoy, Treasurer, and John F. Scragg, Solicitor.

The Directors and Officers of the Institution take great pride in their work and in the Institution, and their policy is to support the unfortunate as comfortably as possible at any reasonable cost to the district.

LANCASTER COUNTY.

LANCASTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE AND INSANE ASYLUM.

The Lancaster County Almshouse, Hospital and Insane Asylum is situated on the Philadelphia turnpike East of Lancaster City, on a farm of 198 acres, operated by a farmer and one assistant, together with the inmates of the Almshouse, such as are fit, under the supervision of the Steward, the Steward under the supervision of a board of six (6) directors.

The Almshouse has a capacity of 500 inmates. At the present time we have in the Almshouse, males, 230; females, 58.

The Insane Asylum has a capacity of about 100, but at the present time we have in the Asylum, males, 83; females, 65. In the Hospital at present we have, males, 69; females 45.

We are at the present time building an Asylum to accommodate 150. The dimensions are 175 by 80 feet; situated between the old Asylum and the Almshouse.

The Institution is governed by six (6) Directors, one Steward, one Medical Superintendent and one Clerk.

Directors—H. W. Graybill, President; J. S. Strine, M. H. Grube, J. K. Frantz, Fred Shoff and C. L. Nissley.

LUZERNE COUNTY.

CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT.

Forced by the crowded conditions of the State institutions for insane and with a thorough appreciation of the repeated recommendations of county homes, by the State Board of Lunacy, the Central Poor District decided upon the erection of their new Hospital for Insane.

This district at present maintains about two hundred and fifty patients in the various institutions of the State at an actual cash expenditure to the county of about \$2,200 yearly.

With the knowledge that with their own home almost half of this amount would be paid them by the State and that the maintenance fund of \$1.75 per patient now paid to the State institutions could be saved to the district and probably lowered, they employed architects to prepare plans and superintend the construction of the "Central Poor District Hospital for Insane."

The requirements insisted upon by the Board of Directors were solidity of construction, freedom from danger of fire, ample means of exit, outside light and air to all parts of the buildings, the best system of heating and ventilating that could be devised and an interior arrangement permitting such aggregation and classification of patients as to insure a minimum of cost for staff and attendance.

These requirements we believe have been met in a most thorough and practical manner by our architects, Messrs. McCormick & French, of Wilkes-Barre.

The new institution consists of a group of eight brick buildings admirably located on the highest point of the "Poor Farm" at Retreat, Pa. The main group consists of five buildings, the Administration building, Male and Female Day room wings, all connected together by wide and perfectly lighted corridors. The detached buildings are the kitchen and laundry, the engine house and boiler house, the entire group providing 91,820 square feet of floor space, exclusive of a cellar area of 15,700 square feet.

The manner of construction of the buildings allows no hollow spaces or furred walls. All floors and partitions are made absolutely solid, allowing no hidden spaces for fire, vermin or foul air, and the main group is separated by fire-proof doors into about fifty subdivisions.

The lavatory sections are semi-detached buildings, floored with asphalt. All waste and vent pipes are of wrought iron with screwed fittings. The lavatory fixtures are of the most durable and economical character throughout, being of nicked brass and solid porcelain, the bathing arrangement consisting of about 60 rain baths and a like number of tubs.

The heating and ventilating is designed in accordance with the "blast system," the fans and engines being located about 200 feet distant from the main group. The lighting is by the direct current system, the engines, generator and switch board being located in the engine house.

Telephones are located in every ward and communications can be established between the different parts of the buildings without the use of a central key-board.

The supply of water for cooking and drinking purposes comes from an artesian well bored 750 feet into water bearing rock. The supply for fire and lavatory use comes through an 8-inch pipe under heavy pressure and is connected to about thirty hose lines ready for instant service.

The arrangement of the interior consists of large and small dormitories with a sufficient number of single rooms. The attendants' quarters are entirely separated from those of the patients, and no room in the different wards is without sunshine during some parts of the day.

Cost, fully equipped, \$250,000. Capacity, 400 inmates.

EXPENDITURES.

Total Almshouse expenses.....	\$18,940 21
Outside expenses:	
Out-door relief.....	21,158 11
Insane in Hospitals.....	22,846 19
Children in Homes....	520 00
Feeble-minded in Lig. Schools.....	431 32
Support of poor in other Institutions.....	1,634 30
	<hr/>
	\$46,589 92
Number of poor in Almshouse.....	177
" " insane in Hospitals.....	250

Directors—Abram Nesbitt, President; S. W. Davenport, Secretary and Treasurer; Louis Tisch, J. H. Oplinger, C. A. Westfield, G. H. Shiffer, G. H. Butler, A. J. Childs; E. J. Butler, Physician; D. L. O'Neill, Attorney; M. Eichelberger, Steward; Mrs. E. T. Gerhart, Matron.

MERCER COUNTY.

MERCER COUNTY HOME.

The average number of inmates in the Mercer County Home for the year 1899 has been 100, the cost per inmate being \$79.00 per year. Our management is by a Board of Directors of three: one elected each year for a term of three years, and paid by the day for their services.

Then we employ a Steward and a Matron to take charge of the farm and house and also the inmates. In this way we succeed in getting very much work on the farm from the men and also much work in the house from the women. This goes to keep down expenses in the way of hired help. It is also a good healthy exercise for the inmate that is able to work. There are in the Home at present 85 inmates. These are principally old men and women, and also some cripples and idiots. These are kept at an expense of \$79.00 per year: this including all expenses of farm, repairs and hired help.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Almshouse buildings are situated on an elevation facing the South, and fronting the Schuylkill River. They are healthfully located and the situation is exceptionally healthful. Have a large, well-kept lawn, with commodious vegetable gardens and orchards.

The Almshouse is well supplied with two springs of water. The water is so conducted as to supply all the buildings and barn with constantly flowing water, by gravity. Have large new pump and 500 feet of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch new fire hose, from which the water can be thrown over any of the buildings in case of fire.

The farm contains about three hundred acres, nearly all fertile and productive, with about ten acres of woodland included.

This year raised about 1,200 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of oats, 600 bushels potatoes and 4,000 bushels of corn. Have made 30 barrels of cider, and have a large crop of winter apples.

Connected with the Institution are two dwelling houses fitted up comfortably and occupied by two of the employes and their families.

A new grain barn and stable, 50 feet by 32 feet, was erected last year. The main barn is 125 by 75 feet, and is well filled with the crops of the season.

During this year plans were drawn up and proposals received for a new Hospital building or Infirmary, to be connected with the Almshouse, with capacity for 75 male and 50 female patients; the estimated cost of the building to be about \$20,000. The lowest bid received was over \$25,000, and the County Commissioners refused to award the contract. It is confidently hoped that the Infirmary will be erected during the year 1900.

Average number of inmates during the past year, 180. Average weekly cost of maintaining each inmate, \$1.40. Over 300 persons have been given out-door relief, besides those receiving medical attendance and the burials.

Paid for out-door relief.....	\$ 9,498 58
“ “ “ “ medical attendance	1,963 13
“ “ “ “ burials.....	725 00
“ “ Board of Children, outside.....	1,561 78
“ to other districts for keep of paupers.....	101 98
Almshouse and farm supplies, improvements, etc.	21,070 77
Total amount of orders granted	\$34,921 24
Cash receipts at Almshouse.....	4,459 25
Net cost to the county for the past year.....	\$30,461 99

We have no insane in the Almshouse, all our insane patients being transferred to State Hospitals for the Insane.

Directors—Franklin Eppheimer, Royersford; William Shepherd, Colmar; William H. Kuder, Norristown.

Officers—A. D. Alderfer, Steward, Royersford; Edward E. Long, Solicitor, Norristown; Dr. M. Y. Weber, Physician.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

COAL TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

The Coal Township Poor District is composed of the City of Shamokin, and Coal Township, and has a population of about 38,000. The Home for the Poor consists of two brick buildings with accommodations for 50 people, situated on a farm of 175 acres of land, two miles from the City of Shamokin. We have under construction a brick addition to the Home, which, when completed, will accommodate about 200 people.

We supported, in our Almshouse during the year, an average of 75 inmates. We have in the different State Asylums, 38 insane and 19 children in Homes.

Total Almshouse Expenditures.....	\$ 4,267 28
Total outside expenditures.....	25,538 49
Total.....	<u>\$29,805 77</u>

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

TOWNSHIP OF GERMANTOWN.

Report of the accounts of the Managers of the Poor of the Township of Germantown:

RECEIPTS.	
Tax Duplicate, 1888.....	\$21,123 95
“ “ 1899.....	5,225 00
Delinquent taxes.....	1,637 26
Board of Inmates.....	1,601 56
Pension money.....	141 00
Money refunded.....	22 64
Total.....	<u>\$29,751 41</u>

EXPENDITURES.		
Provisions and supplies.....	\$ 6,037 42	
Clothing and shoes.....	227 12	
Dry goods and bedding.....	525 70	
Farm expenses.....	307 35	
House medicines.....	406 37	
Traveling expenses.....	11 05	
Fuel and light.....	602 43	
Salaries and wages.....	3,402 00	
Repairs and improvements.....	442 13	
Board of Insane.....	8,077 29	
Board of Children.....	447 25	
Extraordinary expenses.....	175 00	
Ordinary expenses.....	3,775 86	
Groceries,	} Out-door Relief.....	4,070 20
Coal,		1,624 01
Medicines,		335 80
Shoes,		382 68
Total.....		<u>\$30,829 66.</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Cash on hand at last settlement.....	\$ 1,084 04
Received for year ending March 30, 1899.....	29,751 41
Total.....	<u>\$30,835 45</u>
Amount paid out for year ending March 30, 1899.....	30,829 66
Balance in Treasurer's hands.....	<u>5 79</u>

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

Groceries.....	\$ 4,070 20
Coal.....	1,624 01
Medicines.....	335 80
Shoes.....	382 68
	<u>\$ 6,412 69</u>

Poor cared for—Insane Asylum.....	77
Wernersville.....	4
Blind Asylum.....	1
Epileptic Home.....	1
In the Home.....	120
	<u>203</u>

Officers—Thomas L. Buckman, President ; Charles O. Roop, Vice-President ; William N. Topham, Treasurer ; Frank H. Massey, Secretary.

Managers—Frank H. Massey, William N. Topham, Charles O. Roop, F. William List, David Harmer, H. J. Benson, Jacob H. Pullinger, Thomas L. Buckman, Charles Still, Jr.

SOMERSET COUNTY.

SOMERSET COUNTY HOME.

(Incorporated by special Act of Assembly, approved April 15, 1845.)

The farm is located two miles from Somerset, the county seat, and contains 342 acres, under good cultivation.

We have three separate and distinct buildings : The main brick, used for the office of directors, Steward's dwelling, female department and dining-rooms ; a large frame building for sleeping department for men ; Hospital building, just new, which constitutes the Hospital for the Insane, under the County Care Act of Assembly, approved June 23, 1895. The buildings are well adapted for the purposes for which they are intended. Heated with steam, lighted by electricity, with water throughout the buildings. The Hospital building, when entirely completed, will be a gem of comfort and convenience. It will not be surpassed by any in comparison to size and cost of construction.

During the year there were committed in all	158
Died and removed to hospitals.....	12

146

Placed in care of Children's Aid Society, and indentured and sent to Reform School.....	11
	135
Discharged, got well and eloped	34
	101
Total number remaining.....	101
Children in private families.....	3
Indentured.....	36
In care of Children's Aid Society.....	15
Reform School.....	2
In Feeble-Mind and Deaf and Dumb School.....	5
Patients in State Hospitals	14
Total number in care of Directors of the Poor...	75
	176
Total out-door expenses and improvements.....	\$ 3,175 55
Expenses of the Home proper.....	5,950 41
Total receipts at Home during the year.....	1,509 22
Cost to county of maintaining Home.....	4,435 29
Average cost of maintaining inmates per week.....	1 40
Income of Hospital from October 1, 1898, to present....	3,043 00
Valuation of personal property	3,654 00
Valuation of farm and buildings.....	45,000 00
Number of patients in Hospital.....	41
Natives.....	84
Foreigners.....	17
Number of tramps entertained.....	485

YORK COUNTY.

YORK COUNTY HOME.

The Home is located and almost surrounded by the City of York, and but a short distance from Centre Square. By permission of the Court, the land of the farm, except 21 acres and all the buildings reserved, has been sold and the money put at interest.

The buildings are not as well adapted to the requirements of the Institution as might be. The sanitary condition of the Institution is excellent. The Home is heated by steam and lighted by gas.

The Home is managed by a Board of Directors, three in number, consisting of Jacob Dilbe, President, Isaiah Givens and William Anthony; Robert Boyd, Steward; Edmond Deitz, Clerk; C. H. Shambaugh, Counsel; Dr. John B. Kain, Physician.

The insane of the county are kept at the State Asylum at Harrisburg, Pa.

The Home is surrounded by two railroads and rolling mill, and a number of large manufacturing plants. The noise and confusion constantly produced by these plants and railroads is a great annoyance to the inmates and deprives them of that peace and quietude which their age and condition require.

The general opinion is that the Home should be removed from its present location to a more suitable one, where peace and quietude can be had for the inmates of the Institution and buildings of a modern character erected, and a suitable building for the care of our insane secured under the Act of Assembly.

It is gratifying to all, however, that through the judicious financiering and rare judgment of the Board of Directors, and the executive ability of the Steward, the expenses of the Institution have been materially reduced and all outstanding indebtedness paid.

The following is a statement of the number of persons cared for in the Institution during the year 1898 :

Average number of inmates per month.....	255 $\frac{2}{3}$
Whole number of tramps sheltered during the year.....	3,948
Whole number of meals furnished to tramps.....	9,616
Number of deaths at the Home during the year.....	31

Expenses of the Home for the year 1898—financial statement :

DR.

To cash received from the County Commissioners..... \$35,977'87

CR.

By current expenses of the Home for the year..... \$28,829 03

By Out-door Relief..... 6,128 69

By cash paid York City Benevolent Association on

account..... 1,020 15

 \$35,977'87

Since the first day of January, 1899, all outstanding indebtedness has been paid.

REPORTS OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

CHESTER COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

The Chester County Children's Aid Society was organized in 1884, and incorporated in 1891, having a record of quite faithful work to give. Christian women, actuated by one purpose, with the most generous support of the Directors of the Poor, have labored patiently and faithfully to uplift our homeless, indigent children by giving them the advantages of home life, where the environments of other days are forgotten as they gradually learn to *value* respectability and means of self support. During the present year 14 county children have been added to our number. Total under care to date, 115.

We have an active membership of 158, and 10 contributing members.

The Supplementary Department of our Aid Society was formed to assist children who through death or neglect are left unprotected, and are tending toward pauperism. Funds derived from membership fees and sources other than the county are applied in aid of those in this line of work. At present 19 are enrolled. Many of the recipients of ways and means thus timely bestowed are fitting themselves for the active duties of life.

Meetings of the Board of Managers of our Society are held quarterly. These occasions afford an opportunity for the consideration of important questions relative to the welfare of our little folks, and develop new thought and new service. They are truly "God's poor," and come to our care with their varied hues of complexion and every phase of character that takes possession of a thwarted nature—each variety of need that can be chronicled for distressed humankind—and we adjust each separate case to the best of our ability. The little ones are placed in boarding homes, the Directors of the Poor paying \$1.75 per week for board and clothing, and for the older children free homes are secured.

With earnest hopes for the future of our boys and girls, may we not safely commit each *worker* and the *work* to the guiding hand of "Him who doeth all things well."

Officers—James T. Barnard, President; Ellen P. Way, Vice President; Lydia B. Walton, Secretary; Sarah Ann Conard, Treasurer.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Number of children in Boarding Homes, October 1, 1898:

Belonging to County.....	21
" parents.....	1

Received from October 1, 1898, to October 1, 1899.....	27
From County.....	19
“ other counties.....	3
“ Humane Agent.....	3
“ parents.....	2
	<hr/> 49
Placed in Free Homes :	
Belonging to our County.....	17
“ other Counties.....	1
	<hr/> 18
Placed in Institution : Polk 2, St. Pauls 2, Morganza 1 ...	5
Released on age.....	1
Returned to friends.....	5
“ other Counties.....	2
Died in Boarding Home, a baby.....	1
In Boarding Homes, October 1, 1899.....	17
	<hr/> 31
Total number for the year.....	49

In Boarding Homes belonging to last year's report are 12 ; 9 of them are boys and 4, 1 year old to 8—too young to put in working homes—and small boys are not often wanted for adoption.

Children That Were In Free Homes :

We have transferred to new Homes.....	6
Released on account of age.....	4
Have been adopted.....	1
	<hr/> 11

Of the number placed in free homes, 5 were from 2 months to 3 years of age, taken with the hopes of adopting them.

Of the children boarding, 2 are girls too young to work, and not attractive enough for adoption. We have one colored boy we hope to get into the institution at Polk. Our work this past year has been more encouraging, whether because we have had fewer children, or that our Superintendent at the Home, and Matron, as well as the Directors, do what they can to assist us, as they realize the assistance our society is to them. They very seldom take or keep a child over 2 years old, as they know and feel we would see that the child was well taken care of, and they would not have to be out at the Home at all.

We certainly appreciate all the favors and kindnesses shown us by our Superintendent, Matron and Directors, as well as the donations given to help us in our good work.

Officers—Mrs. Hugh L. Rankin, President ; Mrs. Alonzo P. Bame, Secretary ; Miss Pauline Smith, Treasurer.

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

TITUSVILLE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Our efforts for children are not always in the direction of getting them into homes, but also in helping mothers to keep their families together. This, when the mothers are capable of training their children, so as to make them good citizens. We often find women of culture and refinement who have met with adverse circumstances, but who are eminently fitted to bring up their children. We spend a great deal of time and money in assisting such women instead of breaking up their homes and separating their families.

One of the most important branches of our work has been our Industrial School for girls. Five years ago some of the members of our Children's Aid Society conceived the idea of gathering together the daughters of our poorer families and teaching them to sew. A cooking department was soon added and the results of both were very marked in the homes of these children. The expenses of the school were met by private subscription, and both branches were carried on for three years. Then the cooking department was suspended for lack of funds. We had an average attendance of 100 and the interest was unflagging.

This fall, to our great gratification, we have succeeded in getting the sewing department into our public schools, and the instruction is carried on by one of our most capable young ladies.

As yet, this is no expense to our school board, the necessary means being furnished by individuals in our community; this to continue for one year. If at the end of that time it proves a success, it will become a part of the school curriculum, and we hope also to add the cooking department.

We are most happy in having first introduced the Curfew into our city. This is also an outgrowth of the Children's Aid Society, the subject having been taken into consideration by some of its members with the hope that by persistently keeping it before the public we might cultivate general sentiment and in time institute the measure.

About a month since we sent to our Councils a petition with 1,500 signers and to our intense gratification it was adopted without a dissenting voice. We hope in the near future to hear the sound of the Curfew bill which will send all young children to the shelter of their homes, thereby counteracting much of the evil which now exists on our streets.

We owe, and I wish here to express acknowledgments, to Dr. Murdoch—also to the Commissioners of Crawford County—for kindness shown us in the admission of our feeble-minded children into the Institution at Polk. I do not think enough can be said of the admirable workings of this Institution or of the ability of its officers, in the care of these unfortunate children.

Number of children under care of the Society at last report....	49
“ “ received since last report.....	9

Total number of children under care of the Society during year	58
Number of children placed in free homes.....	4
“ “ “ “ institutions and hospitals.....	7

"	"	returned to friends.....	6
"	"	transferred to new homes in the county...	1
"	"	transferred to Venango county.....	1
Letters and postals	written.....		314
"	"	received	267
Visits			585

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR.

Number of children in free homes at present.....	32
" " " institutions and hospitals.....	19
Total under care at present.....	51
Total under care since organization, 8 years ago.....	122
Number of letters written for Crawford Co. for the year.....	500
" " received " " " " " " " "	420
Number visits made and received in interest of the work.....	746
" children under care in Crawford Co for the year.....	101
" " " " since organization.....	190

LOVINIA A. BARR, *Secretary*.

MEADVILLE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

Number of children under care of the Society at last report...	34
" " received from Almshouse since last report,	2
" " " " other sources since last report,	7
Total number of children under care of the Society during year	43
Number of children placed in boarding homes.....	7
" " " free homes.....	2
" " returned to friends	2
" " died.....	1
Total.....	40
Letters and postals written.....	186
" " " received	186
Visits.....	161

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR.

Number of children in free homes at present.....	83
" " boarding houses.....	7
Total under care at present.....	40
" " " since organization.....	68

Officers—Mrs. John Hogg, President ; Mrs. S. Merrell, Secretary.

GREENE COUNTY.

CHILDREN'S HOME.

Our Children's Home is located five miles East of Waynesburg, the county seat, on a farm of 87 acres, controlled by J. S. Porter and wife, as Steward and Matron. There are at present 48 children in the Home. It is also under the supervision of the Directors.

Doctor for Children's Home, Dr. J. S. Smith.

PHILADELPHIA.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

There is much that is cheering to record, not only in the results of our work for the year, but also in the fact that an aroused interest in child-care is evident everywhere. Conferences are held for the study and comparison of methods of child-saving. Educational reviews and magazines all have their chapter on child study, clubs and councils of women make the care of neglected children the subject of discussion, and from many sources come new expressions of confidence in the principle of this Society.

This principle, so often elaborated, but which does not seem to grow old in the telling, is that since a good home, with a good father and mother, is the right of every child, then every child deprived of that natural right should be given a good home with a good father and mother. In the words of a little girl was this principle immortalized when she begged a kind woman visitor to take her for her little girl, and she said, "If I can't have a truly home, I want another truly home."

Classed as delinquent, defective or only unfortunate, the neglected, homeless children come before the public eye and have to be disposed of. In the method of disposition of all of these classes, there has been wide difference of opinion. It is possible that in the classification itself may lurk the first hindrance to a common understanding of the needs of all children, so difficult is it to find the dividing-line which marks the varying stages of development.

To the student of child nature the delinquent and defective, as well as the unfortunate children, are simply children under process of growth, and subject to the same physiological and psychological laws of development. With this view, all children who are not abnormal to an exaggerated degree, should be readjusted as speedily as possible under the normal conditions of family life; for here, with the least resistance, the wayward boy may find the reward of obedience, the defective may unfold a sluggish mind, and the unfortunate may grow in the sunshine of a happy childhood.

In a land of good homes there is no reason to doubt the practicability of this principle of child-saving, and yet such doubt is constantly to be met in advocating the methods of our Society. In no State has there been such determined effort for so many years to find boarding homes for homeless children as in ours, and consequently this Society is unique in the fact that the homes visited and approved by it now number many thousands.

At just what period a neglected child ceases to be amenable to family care is growing to be a subject of such interest that the following resolution has been offered for discussion at the next meeting of the International Prison Congress; to be held next year at Paris, and to which delegates from every civilized country are to be sent: "In order to secure a practical education for young offenders, as well as for children who are deprived or only neglected, cannot they be apprenticed or placed in families as well as in institutions?"



